MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Military Situation--According to reports by Beirut radio, the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Voice of Palestine radios, Israeli and Christian militia forces shelled Tyre, Sidon, An-Nabatiyah and other areas of the south throughout 21 April while Israeli aircraft over-flew the area. Voice of Palestine reported that 35 people were killed or wounded in Sidon. Jerusalem radio said Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon fired Katyusha rockets into Israel's Galilee panhandle. Clashes between various factions continued in Beirut, with exchanges of artillery, rocket and machinegun fire, according to Beirut radio and the Voice of Lebanon. The fighting eased this morning, Beirut radio said, after a night of intensive shelling. The Voice of Lebanon, however, reported that 30 shells fell on Beirut International Airport this morning and said that sniper fire in the city was continuing. The Voice of Lebanon also accused Syrian forces of shelling industrial and residential areas of Zahlah.

Yadin Warning--Israel has decided to take action to ease tension along the Israeli-Lebanese border, Jerusalem radio reported. It added that Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin has warned that certain elements in the area might try to drag Israel into taking action against the Syrians. He said that since Israel supplies arms to Lebanese Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad, it should persuade him to stop shelling civilian targets in Tyre and Sidon.

Palestine National Council

Political Statement--The Palestine National Council (PNC) issued a political statement, broadcast textually by the Voice of Palestine radio, summing up the results of the PNC session in Damascus. It said the PNC stressed the need for Palestinian national unity and called for the unification of military activities under a supreme military council. The PNC should be strengthened inside Israeli-occupied territories, the statement went on, and the armed struggle against Israel must be escalated. The PNC blamed the Jordanian Government for failing to strengthen the PLO's role as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people and said Jordan should let the PLO assume its "full responsibility" in the work of the Palestinian-Jordanian Joint Coordination Committee. The PNC welcomed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's pronouncements on the Middle East at the 26th CPSU Congress and emphasized the importance of PLO diplomatic and political efforts to gain more support in West Europe. It also condemned terrorism, especially Israel's "organized terrorism" against the Palestinians and U.S. "imperialist terrorism" against world liberation movements. In conclusion the statement noted that the PNC elected a new Executive Committee of national unity.

Abu Sharar Interview--In a 20 April interview with Voice of Palestine, Fatah Central Committee member Majid Abu Sharar revealed that the PNC's decision to retain the Palestinian-Jordanian Joint Coordination Committee had not been unanimous since some members had urged that the committee be dissolved. He said the Palestine Liberation Front and the Popular Struggle Front, hitherto unrepresented in the PNC and PLO, will now be fully recognized Palestinian organizations with observer members on the PLO Executive Committee. He also said the session resolved to step up the Palestinian dialogue with Jewish organizations that are hostile to Zionism, but he did not mention the previously reported resignation from the PNC of Fatah member 'Isam as-Sartawi, who had been criticized for having contacts with Israelis.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio's international service, reported that Iraqi planes downed an Iranian F-14 in a dogfight south of Ahvaz. It also said Iraqi troops forced Iranian infantry to retreat in the Shush region. An Iranian Armed Forces communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, said clashes continued on the Darkhovin, Mared, Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts.

Iran

Tehran Demonstrations--Citing the daily KEYHAN, AFP reported that 2 people were killed and 22 injured during demonstrations on 20 April calling for Tehran University to be reopened. The demonstration was staged by members of the Maoist organization Peykar who clashed with a group of Muslims. The report said two bombs exploded during the clash, one inside a hospital where the wounded had been taken. According to Tehran radio, the "wartime court" issued a communique the next day saying that "minigroups" allied with the East or the West have begun creating public incidents to disturb the peace. It warned that if they continue such actions they will be sternly dealt with according to Koranic law.

Raja'i on Budget--In a Tehran radio interview on the 1981 budget, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Rafa'i claimed that Iran has no budget deficit. He also revealed that the current operating budget is larger than the development budget because the government administration, overstaffed under the shah's regime, remains too large. He pointed out that the government is forced to continue supporting certain townships and industrial projects begun before the revolution.

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to air force officers, broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told the airmen to advise "corrupt" individuals among them against spreading dissension and to report such people to their commanders if they do not desist.

Iraq

Baghdad radio reported that Iraq and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol on economic and technical cooperation. The Iraqi signatory, Industry and Minerals Minister Tahir at-Tawfiq, said Iraqi-Soviet technical and economic cooperation will now develop on a large scale. The Soviet signatory, State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Chairman Semen Skachkov, said the Soviet Union wants to strengthen its relations with Iraq through the implementation of agreements signed between the two countries. According to TASS, Skachkov met President Saddam Husayn during his visit.

Kuwait

KUNA reported that the Kuwaiti National Assembly has approved a bill to grant a loan to Iraq. Citing National Assembly sources, an earlier KUNA report said the loan, amounting to $2 billion, is to be interest free and will be used for the reconstruction of installations destroyed during Iraq's war with Iran.

Saudi Arabia

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher left Riyadh, SPA reported, after a 3-day official visit during which she held talks with Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and other leading officials. According to Riyadh radio, Thatcher revealed during a press conference that Britain is to supply Saudi Arabia with aircraft and weapons, including tanks. She also affirmed that the Rapid Deployment Force will not be established unless the countries in the region request it. A Saudi Foreign Ministry press statement on the visit, carried by SPA, said the talks took place in a "spirit of friendship and frankness" and that Prince Fahd had emphasized the need to resolve the Middle East and Palestinian issues on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and of the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

UAE

Prime Minister Thatcher arrived in Abu Dhabi for a 2-day official visit to the UAE, GNA reported. According to QNA, she later met with President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PNC'S 15TH SESSION ISSUES POLITICAL STATEMENT

NC211505 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1140 GMT 21 Apr 81

["Text" of the concluding political statement of the 15th session of the Palestine National Council]

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] held its 15th session in Damascus, the capital of the Arab Republic of Syria, from 11-16 April 1981. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the Syrian Republic, inaugurated the session with a speech in which he affirmed the cohesion of the Arab Syrian people with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine and Syria's commitment to wage a struggle to liberate Palestine. President al-Asad pointed out the uniqueness of the Palestinian revolution in the Arab struggle movement and expressed Syria's intention to continue its support for the PLO in its confrontation with the Zionist-imperialist aggression and the Camp David designs and its signatories.

Ninety-two delegations representing Arab fraternal countries as well as friendly countries participated in the conference. Also attending were delegations from national liberation movements and from political organizations of a number of countries. These delegations delivered speeches expressing their countries' support for the Arab Palestinian people's struggle and its just cause. Also attending were a large number of observers representing the Palestinian people from various areas of their residence who are contributing to various spheres of the struggle; these observers interacted with the activities of the conference.

This session was convened at a time when the Palestinian struggle is waging an escalating struggle under the leadership of the PLO in various arenas inside and outside Palestine's soil in order to confront the imperialist-colonialist-Zionist aggression and to pursue its march along the path of liberation and return [to the homeland].

This aggression has been embodied by many forms represented by daily attacks that are being carried out by the Zionist enemy forces by land, sea and air against southern Lebanon and in which these forces are using the most deadly U.S. arms. This aggression is also embodied in the policies of persecution, despotism and settlement being practiced by the Zionist occupation in the Palestinian people's homeland. Another form of this aggression is represented by U.S. attempts to impose its domination and control over the Arab nation and the areas surrounding it by various means, foremost among which is the establishment of military bases and the call to sign pacts while brandishing the so-called Soviet threat.

The PNC conducted its activities in a democratic atmosphere, an atmosphere which the Palestinian people are very keen on and which the PLO adheres to and which the Palestinian revolution takes pride in.

The council debated the political and financial reports that were submitted by the Executive Committee and studied, by means of its committees, the various dimensions of the current situation in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas. The PNC committees adopted the necessary organizational, military, political and financial resolutions with regard to various issues.

The PNC affirmed the organizational and political programs adopted in its previous session, the democratic bases and the collective leadership in various levels related to the PLO's activities and its bodies. The PNC also affirmed the need to have the PLO's offices and organizations exercise their full powers and establish specialized supreme councils on factional bases in order to draw up plans for the PLO's institutions in the military, information and financial spheres and to supervise their implementation.

The council expressed the need to work for completing national unity through the participation of the revolutionary squads and all the Palestinian national forces in all the institutions and in the various popular national organizations--inasmuch as this will constitute the basis for unifying the people's efforts. The council also called for developing the unified military activities under the responsibility of the Supreme Military Council and the Executive Committee in order to ensure the proper confrontation of the current perilous circumstances and as a step along the road to full military union.

The council stressed the importance of establishing consultative committees which will interact with the organization's offices wherever they may be and wherever Palestinian communities and aggregations exist.

The PNC also approved the proposal to declare a general military mobilization that will include the various sectors of our people in their places of congregation outside the occupied homeland. The council also called on the Arab and friendly countries to facilitate the implementation of the above and to enable the Palestinians residing in their countries to join the Palestinian revolution's forces.

The council affirmed that the only alternative for resolving the Palestinian problem is the Palestinian alternative. The council rejected and denounced those alternative solutions proposed for solving the Palestinian problem by the imperialist-Zionist and those worked out by agents.

The PNC also affirmed that no country has the right to allege that it represents the Palestinian people or to negotiate the Palestinian problem--whether this refers to the Palestinian soil, people or rights. Anyone who violates this is taking a decision that is null and void and has no legal standing. The PLO alone has the right to choose the just and overall solution that will fully ensure the Palestinian people's firm national rights.

The council affirmed that the occupied city of Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine and that the council regards the Zionist occupation of Jerusalem as a violation of the Palestinian people's rights and a defiance of international laws as well as a provocation of all the believers in the world. The council called on all the world countries and organizations to refuse to carry out anything that will entail an implicit recognition of the Zionist aggression against Jerusalem or its actions therein.

In its debates and resolutions the council expressed its deep admiration for the standard of struggle which has been attained by our people's uprising in the occupied homeland, as well as their solid unity and their complete cohesion with the PLO. The council saluted the heroic struggle of our people in the Galilee, the triangle and the Negev as well as in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip against the Zionist designs that aim at expanding the settlements, Judaization and the destruction of the national economy and education and the holy places.

The council also expressed its admiration for the steadfastness of those who are interned in the enemy's prisons and who are setting an example in their sacrifice in defending their people's right to liberate and return to their homeland. The council affirmed the exceeding importance of building the PNC inside the occupied homeland, considering that the PNC is a vital arm of the PLO and stressed the role of the national guiding committee and the various popular bodies and organizations in their national struggle against occupation and its designs.

The council stressed the importance of supporting the organizations encompassing students, unions and women as well as various vocational unions and municipal councils to enable them to carry out their tasks in enhancing the steadfastness of our people on their own soil and in bolstering their unity in the face of the Zionist enmy's practices and its expansionist policies.

The council considers the development and escalation of the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy as being the cardinal task that rests on the shoulders of the Palestinian revolution inside and outside [Palestine]. The council reiterated the importance of opening the various Arab fronts to the heroic fighters of our revolution.

The council debated social, economic, educational and health issues related to our people in their places of residence and the appropriate solutions for these issues. In this respect the council affirmed the importance of supporting the role of the institutions working within the framework of the organization which are dealing with the aforementioned problems.

The council also considered the continuation of UNRWA an international responsibility until the times comes for our refugees to practice their unshaken right in returning to their houses and taking over their properties. The council called for putting an end to the political blackmail being practiced by some Western countries, particularly the United States, which is embodied by threats of curbing the UNRWA services. The council affirmed the Arab League's resolution to work for integrating UNRWA's budget with the UN's regular budget.

The council also affirmed the importance of enhancing Arab solidarity by pledging enmity toward imperialism, Zionism and by rejecting the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli pact and by implementing the Palestinian people's firm national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO.

The PNC also denounced Somalia, Oman and Sudan, which deviated from the Arab summit resolutions in Baghdad and Tunis. The council stressed the importance of the alliance between Syria and the PLO considering them the basic foundation of the Arab nation's struggle and its confrontation against its enemies. The council emphasized the importance of enhancing these fateful relations and providing the means that will achieve the joint national struggle.

The PNC stressed the importance of the deep-rooted struggle relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian fraternal people and the PNC's support for the Jordanian national movement in various spheres, particularly in its national struggle against any attempt to make Jordan deviate from the Arab and Islamic summit resolutions with regard to the Palestinian problem and the rejection of the Camp David agreements and the autonomy conspiracy. The council declared the PLO's adherence to the Arab summit resolutions in Algeria, Rabat, Baghdad and Tunis. The council regards the Jordanian regime's adherence to these resolutions--such as enabling the PLO to assume its popular responsibilities of struggle in the Jordanian arena--as the basis governing bilateral relations. The council also placed the blame on the Jordanian regime for not attaining positive results [with the PLO] that would practically enhance the PLO's role as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people in their various places of residence.

The PNC also discussed the joint coordination committee's activities in bolstering steadfastness and stressed the need to work on the Arab level to let the PLO assume its full responsibility in this respect. The council also stressed the role of the Palestinian side in the committee and the need to draw a comprehensive plan, in accordance with predetermined priorities, in order to bolster the steadfastness of our people and their national institutions with the participation of the revolutionary squads as well as with national gatherings inside and outside the homeland.

Considering the fateful cohesion between the Lebanese and Palestinian people, the National Council stressed the importance of a unified political and military stance between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement and various other Lebanese forces as well as the importance of the joint struggle to thwart all the attempts that aim at sapping the strength of the Palestinian revolution in the Lebanese arena, at fragmenting Lebanon, and at endangering its security and Arab character.

The PNC saluted the Lebanese and Palestinian masses and the joint forces, which are standing fast in southern Lebanon, for their sacrifices and acts of heroism in their confrontation against the Zionist enemy and the separatist forces, which are armed to the teeth by the most modern U.S. weapons of destruction. The PNC also considers the Arab summit resolutions and the bases of national accord that were announced by President Ilyas Sarkis as the starting points for ensuring Lebanon's stability and for preserving the Palestinian revolution. The council also affirmed the continuation of the struggle, side by side with the heroic Lebanese people, under the leadership of their national movement and the various other national forces for the sake of the unity of Lebanon's territory, and their people's Arab character and democratic development.

The PNC affirmed its support for the Lebanese National Movement, which rejects all forms of outside intervention and the internationalization projects that aim at harming the Palestinian revolution's steadfastness, the Lebanese National Movement and Syria.

The PNC praised the efforts to unify the forces that are opposed to the separatist-Zionist designs into a broad Lebanese national front. The council affirmed the importance of the national role being played by the Arab Deterrent Forces in order to preserve Lebanon's security, Arab character, territorial safety and unity and in order to foil the partition plans. The council also expressed its rejection of all the resettlement plans and affirmed its full adherance to our people's right to return to their homeland--Palestine.

The PNC has also highly prized the patriotic and progressive forces in Arab Egypt for their heroic struggle waged to abort the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The PNC emphasized its support for the patriotic forces and its believe in the inevitable triumph of the will of our Arab people in Egypt so that Egypt would resume its role of leading the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for the sake of liberating Palestine.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, the PNC called for the need to halt this war forthwith. The PNC blessed the efforts that the PLO command has exerted, and which it is still exerting, to halt this war so that the full potentials of the two countries could be channeled toward buttressing the struggle that is being waged against the imperialist-Zionist aggression against our area and to liberate Palestine and holy Jerusalem. The reason is that the continuation of this war harms our cause and serves the enemies of our Arab nation and the Muslim peoples.

The PNC emphasized the importance of boosting the efficacy of the National Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and the need to develop the existing relations among the members of this front in a way that would facilitate achieving its objectives to check all the imperialist conspiracies which are facing this area--first and foremost the Camp David designs and the parties to these designs. The PNC also stressed the basic role of the PLO and Syria, within the framework of the National Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation, in seeking to discharge the national and pan-Arab objectives of the struggle prescribed by the resolutions passed by the steadfastness and confrontation summit conference.

The PNC expressed the importance it attaches to the Arab people's conference and the need to work to develop the formula for this conference so that this conference can constitute the framework for a popular Arab front dedicated to the achievement of the objectives of our Arab people and nation--liberation, unity and advancement.

The PNC affirmed that imperialist military provocations that are being made in the Arab Gulf and Red Sea areas are an integral part of the imperialist strategy geared to striking the national liberation movements, controlling the destinies and resources of the area and imposing political, military and economic mobilization against it.

The PNC also emphasized that it is imperative to use the Arab homeland's oil resources to ensure the prosperity and progress of the Arab nation and to serve this nation's present causes, particularly the Palestine cause.

The PNC delineated the importance of a strong alliance among the world's revolutionary forces. It expressed its desire to consolidate the relations of friendship and solidarity with the socialist countries--with the friendly Soviet Union in the forefront--with the national liberation movements and with the democratic and progressive forces hostile to imperialism and Zionism in the capitalist countries.

The PNC welcomed the announcement made by President Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress on the Middle East crisis. In this announcement President Brezhnev emphasized the basic role the PLO is playing in the achievement of a just solution to the crisis, the need to put into practice the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to set up their independent national state as confirmed by the UN resolutions passed on the Palestine question and the UN role in the resolution of this issue.

The council expressed its appreciation of the political and moral support extended by the socialist countries to the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's struggle.

The PNC emphasized its interest in the unity of the Nonaligned Movement on the basis of the movement's principles opposed to imperialism, Zionism and racism. It expressed its appreciation of the nonaligned states' solidarity with our people's struggle for their inalienable national rights and their confrontation with aggression. The council lauded the resolutions adopted by the nonaligned sixth summit conference in Havana and the recent resolutions of the foreign ministers in New Delhi on the Palestine and Middle East questions.

The council commended Arab-African solidarity in the struggle against the enemy and its ally the racist regime in South Africa. It also expressed its appreciation of the African states' solidarity with our people's struggle and it saluted the triumph scored by the people of Zimbabwe against racism and the emergence of the Zimbabwe nationalist state. The PNC expressed its full support for the struggle of the people of Nambia against the racist regime in South Africa and for freedom and independence.

The council underscored its firm support for the struggle of the peoples of Latin America and the Carribean region. It condemned the aggressive practices of the U.S. Government in that region.

The council emphasized the importance of widening the circle of recognition for the PLO. It discussed the moves carried out by the EC states. It expressed its conviction that it is the right and the duty of the Palestinian revolution to continue its political and diplomatic moves and activity at the international level, including the states of West Europe.

The PNC decided that the soundness of any initiative is measured by its nonrecognition of the Camp David course and agreements as a basis of a settlement and the recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as well as our people's right to repatriation, self-determination and to their independent state on their national soil.

The PNC called on the Arab and Islamic states, especially the oil states among them, to use their capabilities and resources to make the industrial and capitalist states recognize the PLO and all the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

The council saluted all the democratic and progressive forces opposed to imperialism, Zionism, racial discrimination, and fascism in the states of West Europe as well as all the capitalist states.

The PNC strongly condemned terrorism and international terrorism, especially the Zionist official and organized terrorism against the Palestinian people, the PLO and the people of Lebanon, as well as American imperialist terrorism against the world liberation movements.

The council affirmed its adherence to the UN Charter and international legitimacy which has recognized the Palestinian people's unnegotiable national rights.

At the end of its meetings the PNC accepted the resignation of the Executive Committee in accordance with the basic laws. It elected a new Executive Committee manifesting national unity. The Executive Committee unanimously elected Brother Yasir 'Arafat as its chairman.

The council extended the term of the present National Council until the meeting of the 16th National Council and specified the way in which it is to be formed.

PLO WELCOMES KUWAITI INITIATIVE ON LEBANON

LD201122 Kuwait KUNA in English 1014 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Damascus, 20 Apr (KUNA)--The Palestine Liberation Organization has welcomed a proposal by Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah for hosting a conference in his country for the warring parties in Lebanon. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told KUNA "I agree to this proposal and I agree to whatever could strengthen integrity, independence and security of Lebanon."

Shaykh as-Sabah made the proposal in an interview published today by the English Lebanese MONDAY MORNING magazine.

The chief of PLO's Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, also said that his organization was always prepared to take part in efforts for settlement of the Lebanese crisis. Welcoming Shaykh as-Sabah's proposal for a roundtable conference on Lebanon, Qaddumi said "This proposal will be discussed by the PLO Executive Committee after officially receiving an invitation."

'ARAFAT STATEMENT ON EEC, ITALY CLARIFIED

JN191919 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1845 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] An official Palestinian source made the following statement today: Some media organs published an item to the effect that Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made a statement that the Italian Government is taking antagonistic stands toward the Palestine cause. We want to make clear that Brother Abu 'Ammar's statement in answer to a question by an Italian deputy was that we had hoped that the EEC countries, including Italy, would take supportive and clear stands toward the rights of the Palestinian people. We believe that had it not been for external pressures, the EEC countries, especially Italy with whose parties we have friendly relations, would have taken stands which reflect their interest in the Middle East issue and would have dealt with the Palestinian question as the essence of that issue.

KUWAIT

AS-SABAH SAYS REPLY ON LEBANESE INITIATIVE AWAITED

LD201342 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 20 Apr (KUNA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah today said that Kuwait is still awaiting official replies from the conflicting parties in Lebanon before sending out an invitation for a roundtable conference to be held in Kuwait.

Shaykh as-Sabah was speaking to newsmen on the proposal for such a roundtable conference he made in an interview with Lebanon's MONDAY MORNING newspaper released in Beirut yesterday. He said that "Kuwait was capable of talking to the Syrian officials and persuading them to attend the meeting." He also said that the Palestinian approval of the Kuwaiti proposal "is a positive step, but we are awaiting an official reply." He added that the Kuwaiti ambassador in Lebanon 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan "has been asked to pursue the matter with the parties concerned."

Shaykh as-Sabah reiterated that Kuwait's relations with all the parties in Lebanon "were normal and Kuwait does not antagonize anyone." He added: "Kuwait has not been a party to the events in Lebanon and thus a meeting of the various parties to the conflict will provide an important positive factor which would ensure success, more than if such a meeting were to be held in a foreign capital."

He said that he informed the Lebanese ambassador here that Kuwait "has never asked for a meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the Lebanese question." "To verify things," he added, "we contacted Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi on the matter. Klibi denied that the Arab League had sent out any invitation in this regard on behalf of Kuwait." He said "such a matter concerns the Lebanese authorities alone."

PRESS LAUDS FOREIGN MINISTER'S PLANNED USSR VISIT

ARAB TIMES Editorial

GF221038 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 21 Apr 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Momentous Visit"]

[Text] Announcement of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's high level visit to Moscow is of remarkable importance in the Arab and international field for its timing and the country that took the initiative.

Kuwait's foreign minister is well known in international circles for his diplomacy and has been praised for the frank and consistent statements he makes with regard to either the Arab or world crisis.

His visit to the Soviet Union will show that Russia is not harboring any aggressive intentions toward the Gulf states as claimed repeatedly by American and British officials as a pretext to interfere in the region's internal affairs.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Britain's Premier Mrs Margaret Thatcher have excluded Kuwait from their itinerary for the area because both the Americans and the British are coming to discuss security and oil issues for the region. Kuwait believes that these issues are clear and there is no need for a dialogue about them. Kuwait has rejected any interference in the internal affairs of Gulf countries especially in the matter of security and oil.

This position should be affirmed by the Soviets who are called on to declare their stand toward the region in order to silence the Americans and others who are hanging on to America for their own intersts. The Soviets are also called on to show goodwill toward the Arabs by exporting arms and technology and working more seriously for the regaining of Arab rights in Palestine.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit will take place only 4 days after he proposed a round table meeting of concerned parties in Lebanon. We expect the visit to the Soviet Union will bring fruitful results in connection with the Lebanese situation so as to bring back peace and normalcy to this Arab country which is being destroyed by American policy through Israelis and the Phalangists.

The visit will also be an opportunity for Shaykh Sabah to discuss the latest proposal of Soviet leader Brezhnev about the holding of an international conference for concerned parties in the Middle East crisis including the PLO so as to obtain a lasting and just solution of the Middle East problem.

We are sure the visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will be fruitful and of great benefit to the Arab world.

AL-QABAS Comment

LD220836 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0708 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Apr (KUNA)--Kuwait's AL-QABAS today described the visit which Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and acting Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir will be paying to Moscow tomorrow as tantamount to an implicit rejection of the U.S. line of thinking with regard to the Middle East. The simple and direct meaning of this Kuwaiti visit to Moscow, the paper added, is "a clever and implicit rejection of all the theses brought by U.S. Secretary of State General Haig during his tour of the Middle East and a practical and tangible objection to the ideas he presented."

Cooperation between Kuwait and the USSR, the paper said, has been effective, fruitful and free of any real threats "despite the fact that it is a cooperation between a superpower which is normally described as imperialist and a small state like Kuwait." This makes it clear, the paper added, that what the United States considers to be a global threat does not necessarily represent a "strategic identity" to the other countries who also have traditional friendly relations with the United States.

U.S. ATTACKED FOR 'TRADING WITH SOVIET THREAT'

LD200850 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0707 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Apr (KUNA)--The Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM has praised the call by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, foreign affairs minister and acting minister of information, for putting an end to U.S. trading with the Soviet threat to the Gulf region. However, the paper questions his call to give Washington another chance because its government is still new in office. The paper asks: Why has the new government, despite its short term in office, come to sponsor the Israeli policies in the Middle East and come to the region "to impose the priority of the Soviet threat over that of the Zionist threat?"

The paper points out that the United States has firm policies which have nothing to do with the change of presidents and that the U.S. Government is pursuing a policy of deception toward the Arab countries. If the U.S. Government is given time to make its necessary studies, then more time will have to be given to study the new Israeli Cabinet which will emerge from the forthcoming elections and so on and so forth.

OMAN

MINISTER VIEWS GULF SECURITY, INTER-ARAB TIES

JN211108 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Doha, 21 Apr (QNA)--'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas, minister of information and youth affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, has reaffirmed that the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council is a practical interpretation of mutual Gulf aspirations and crowning of existing cooperation among the countries of the Gulf area.

In a statement to the Qatari weekly AL-'AHD published here today, Ar-Rawwas said the Sultanate of Oman is proud of its membership in this council and will cooperate with other sister states in entrenching the council and developing its concepts in a manner commensurate with the hopes pinned on it so it will be a real framework and a great edifice through which the Gulf people can avert all dangers and achieve stability for their area.

Speaking of his country's relations with the UAE, the Omani minister said that the Sultanate of Oman is exploiting every possible opportunity to improve its relations with the UAE on realistic and clear bases. He asserted that Oman is cooperating with its UAE brothers in settling all outstanding issues in a spirit of strong fraternity and common destiny.

Regarding Oman's terms for normalizing relations with the PDRY, Ar-Rawwas said that his country blesses every initiative by the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council to clear the air between the two countries out of their concern for keeping the area and its peoples outside the world power struggle and its consequences. He asserted that his country is ready to extend a hand of love and amity to all the countries of the region provided they adhere to the principle of good-neighbor relations and noninterfernce in other people's affairs so that these countries can devote themselves entirely to developing their homelands and improving the living conditions of their peoples.

Commenting on Omani-Eqyptian relations, Ar-Rawwas said there has been no change in these relations, which are based on the secular principle of repudiating the policy of estrangement within the Arab nation. He stressed that severing any part from the main body of the Arab homeland is bound to weaken that body.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Omani minister said the continuation of this war threatens the region's security and stability. He expressed the hope that the Islamic good offices committee would succeed in reaching a solution that would stop bloodshed between Muslims and give everyone his rights.

Ar-Rawwas concluded that Omani domestic policy aims at developing the Omani citizen so he can cope with the challenges of internal development and defend his country and beliefs against any outside aggression.

STATEMENT ISSUED ON PORTUGUESE PREMIER'S VISIT

JN191104 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0920 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Muscat, 19 Apr (GNA)--In a joint press statement issued today at the end of the Portuguese prime minister's visit to the Sultanate of Oman, the Omani and Portuguese sides expressed support for peace efforts and stressed the need for seeking a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause that will encompass withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including east Jerusalem, and respect for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination. The following is the text of the statement:

To consolidate the cordial relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Portugal and at the official invitation of the Omani Government, His Excellency Francisco Pinto Balsemao, prime minister of the Republic of Portugal, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid an official visit to the Sultanate 16-19 April during which he met with his majesty the sultan and reviewed issues of mutual interest.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of amity and understanding highlighting the friendship that exists between the two countries, which are bound by strong historical relations and a common desire to develop them. The Omani side explained to the Portuguese side the bases and principles of Oman's foreign policy, the situation in the Gulf area and the dangers to which it is exposed and Oman's role in confronting these dangers. The Omani side also explained the cooperation that now exists among the countries in the area and the joint efforts to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations among these countries.

The Omani side denounced the Soviet acts of intervention through the PDRY and considered them a source of anxiety in the area. The discussion also focused on the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

The Portuguese side explained its country's foreign policy, particularly that pertaining to Portugal's membership in NATO, its imminent membership in the European Community and its historical and cultural relations with the Arab world and Africa.

The Porguguese side expressed understanding and appreciation of the role the Sultanate of Oman is undertaking for achieving security and stability in the area. It also expressed satisfaction at the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which will be capable of assuming an effective role for the sake of the area's stability.

On the Middle East issue the two sides stressed their support for the peace efforts and for the need to seek a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem that will encompass the following: 1) withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including east Jerusalem and 2) respect for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

The viewpoints of the two parties were in agreement on the need for the Soviet forces to withdraw from Afghanistan, for an end to Soviet intervention in that country's domestic affairs and for the Afghan people to be allowed to choose the political, economic and religious regime they wish. In this respect the two sides denounced the policy of expansion that is aggravating international tension, negatively affecting the principles of peaceful coexistence and threatening world peace.

The Omani side expressed understanding and appreciation of the viewpoints of the Portuguese side on international issues, particularly those pertaining to Portugal's solidarity with the urgent Arab causes and the role that small- and medium-size countries should play within the framework of the international community.

To consolidate and develop the good relations between the two countries, the two sides have agreed to sign a cultural agreement and to exchange expertise on the protection and restoration of antiquities and historical sites in Oman. The two sides also agreed to hold cultural exhibitions in the two countries. In this respect the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture will hold a cultural exhibition in Lisbon next September. The exhibition will be inaugurated by His Highness Faysal ibn 'Ali ibn Faysal Al Bu Sa'id, minister of national heritage and culture, who has accepted an invitation to visit Lisbon on this occasion.

The Portuguese side pointed out that the Portuguese sailing ship trainer (Lagress) will pay a visit to Oman on the same occasion.

His excellency the Portuguese minister of commerce and tourism extended an invitation to his Omani counterpart, His Excellency Muhammad al-Zubayr, to visit Portugal. The invitation was accepted by his excellency.

The two sides reviewed the appropriate means for strengthening trade relations and cooperation within the framework of the economic development plans in both the Sultanate of Oman and Portugal, particularly in the spheres of oil, fisheries, and construction industries.

The Portuguese side expressed admiration for and appreciation of the progress achieved by Oman during the past 10 years of the rule of His Majesty Sultan Qabus.

The Portuguese prime minister, in his own name and on behalf of the delegation accompanying him, expressed thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded the Portuguese delegation during its official visit to Oman, reflecting the genuine Omani hospitality which exceeds customary norms. The Portuguese delegation expressed hope that it will be allowed to reciprocate when senior Omani officials visit Portugal.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER WELCOMES U.S., UK ARMS AID

LD221228 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 22 Apr (SPA)--The Saudi minister of defense and aviation, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has discounted the likelihood of a meeting of Arabian Gulf defense ministers during the Gulf summit conference to be held in Abu Dhabi next month. The prince was speaking during today's opening of the new headquarters of the Saudi Air Force and the housing project at the air base. He said that all indications point to the success of the Gulf summit, God willing.

Replying to a question about the U.S. administration's announcement of its approval of the deal to supply the kingdom with American arms, Prince Sultan said we are confident about the sun of peace [shams al-salam] project [as heard]. There are no obstacles in the way of the implementation of this project whatever biased information media may say, he added. The prince said that the wise policy pursued by the kingdom both in words and in deeds overcomes all difficulties.

He expressed the Saudi Arabian kingdom's gratitude for Margaret Thatcher's statement on supplying the kingdom with arms and aircraft and said that the kingdom always welcomes cooperation with friendly countries in the fields of armament and manufacturing.

As for German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's forthcoming visit to the kingdom, and whether the question of the arms deal which the kingdom wants to conclude with his country will be raised with him, Prince Sultan said that this matter will be left for Schmidt to raise if he wishes. As far as we are concerned, he added, we have not mentioned anything in this regard so as not to embarrass any country.

On the Iraqi-Iranian conflict the prince expressed his hope that the Islamic good offices committee will succeed in establishing peace between the two combatant countries.

AL-JAZIRAH Comment

LD171448 Riyadh SPA in English 1205 GMT 17 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Apr (SPA)--Two [as received] national newspapers today editorially commented on the proposed supplies of sophisticated American weapons to the kingdom in the context of the Euro-American stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict by calling on the U.S. administration to review its policy free from Zionist lobby's influence in Washington.

Commenting on U.S. arms sale to Saudi Arabia, AL-JAZIRAH newspaper said any future decision on the sale would be a pointer as to how far the U.S. administration had freed itself from the influence of Zionist lobby in Washington. The paper said it was a pity that the authorities in Washington cared more for Israel than the American national interest inside or outside the U.S. AL-JAZIRAH cautioned against any hasty decision on the part of U.S. administration and cautioned the U.S. authorities to estimate accurately the effects in rejecting the weapons deal to Saudi Arabia.

The paper also urged the new U.S. administration in the context of Arab and world expectations to take into account the strong position of Arab countries and Saudi Arabia in political economic and financial fields for devising a positive policy towards the Middle East. The paper added the doors of the world were wide open for the kingdom in case of a rejection of weapons deal from the United States.

PRIME MINISTER THATCHER VISITS RIYADH 19-21 APR

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD211856 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Apr 81

["Text" of Foreign Ministry press statement issued on 21 April at the end of an official visit by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher]

[Text] At the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between 19 and 21 April 1981, accompanied by a delegation of senior officials.

The prime minister and the accompanying delegation were accorded a warm welcome and hospitality, reflecting the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The British prime minister called on his majesty the king. She also conducted talks with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on bilateral relations and international issues of common concern.

Attending the talks on the Saudi side were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister; Dr Rashid Fir'awn, his majesty's personal adviser; Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; Shaykh Nasir al-Manquir, the kingdom's ambassador to Britain; and Mr Ma'mun Khayri al-Qabbani, ambassador in the Foreign Ministry.

Attending on the British side were His Exalted Excellency Mr Douglas Hurd, member of Parliament and minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs; His Excellency Mr James Craig, British ambassador to the kingdom; His Excellency Mr John Graham, deputy minister of state for foreign affairs; and His Excellency Mr Michael Alexander, the prime minister's private secretary.

The talks took place in an atmosphere in which a spirit of friendship and frankness prevailed. The sides reviewed bilateral relations, the issues of the Middle East and Palestine and also the current international situation.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stressed the importance of finding a speedy and just solution to the Middle East and Palestine issues on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from all Arab and Palestinian territories which were occupied in 1967, including Jeruselem, and also recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, first and foremost their right to self-determination.

His royal highness also stressed that any solution to the Palestinian issue must come through the PLO, it being the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

His royal highness expressed the hope that the European efforts, and in particular those in the period when Britain will chair the EEC Council, will contribute toward finding the sought-after and just solution to the Palestinian issue, which is the basic element in the stability and security of the Middle East, and [stressed] that the security of the Gulf is inseparable from the security of this region, which remains the responsibility of its states and peoples.

Thatcher Press Conference

LD212118 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, this afternoon held a press conference at her residence in the guest palace in Riyadh in which she spoke about the results of her visit and talks with officials in the kingdom. She expressed her pleasure with this visit and satisfaction with the series of talks she had with senior officials in the kingdom. She also expressed her admiration and appreciation for everything she saw in the kingdom in the field of development and construction in all spheres.

The press conference was attended by Douglas Hurd, member of Parliament and minister of state for foreign affairs; Mr James Craig, British ambassador to the kingdom; and representatives of the local and international media.

Replying to a question about Britain's attitude toward supplying arms to the kingdom, Mrs Thatcher said that a number of arrangements had been made with the government and the kingdom in this respect. She added that Britain would supply the kingdom with aircraft and other weapons, such as tanks. She expressed hope that the Saudi Royal Air Force would buy more British Hawk training aircraft which it is currently using.

Referring to her talks with officials in the kingdom, the British prime minister explained that both sides had had every opportunity to raise issues quite freely. She said that the talks dealt with a number of issues, first and foremost with the situation in the Middle East and cooperation with the Gulf states. She expressed happiness at the fact that there was now greater cooperation in the Gulf to defend the region.

Mrs Thatcher commended the moderate policy which the government of the kingdom is pursing to prevent big increases in oil prices while at the same time maintaining the rate of its production. She said that any other decision in this sphere by the kingdom would place the West in a very difficult position.

Mrs. Thatcher expressed thanks and gratitude for the welcome and hospitality accorded her and the accompanying delegation during their stay in the kingdom. She also hoped that more cooperation would be realized between the two countries in the future. She said that what she had seen today at King Faysal Air College was a good example of this cooperation.

Mrs Thatcher stressed the need for cooperation among the Gulf states to realize security and stability in this important part of the world. She added that the states of this region had to cooperate with one another so as to be able to establish a joint defense to enable them to protect themselves and what belongs to them.

Regarding the so-called Rapid Deployment Force, the British prime minister said that this force would not be set up unless the states concerned asked for it and agreed to its being set up.

Press Reaction

LD190946 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Apr (SPA)--Under the headline "The Consolidation of Cooperation," the newspaper AR-RIYAD writes: Recent developments in the British attitude toward the Middle East crisis will almost smooth the way for Mrs Thatcher, as she begins her visit to the kingdom today, to rearrange her country's relations with the majority of Arab countries, particularly the Gulf countries. The paper adds that Britain is anxious to develop its economic relations with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in particular and the other Gulf countries in general following the intense coolness which has prevailed between the two countries for several months. Matters have now returned to their normal course.

The paper says that Mrs Thatcher's visit has two important dimensions, one political and the other economic. The paper points out that the political dimension requires a rational return to the history of British-Gulf relations in general and British-Arab relations in particular, and 't also requires a careful scrutiny of the current change in London's attitude toward the Palestine question in the first place--a change which seems to meet with full satisfaction on the part of the Gulf countries.

The talks between the Saudi and British sides, the paper adds, will help clarify the Saudi attitude toward the Middle East crisis. The paper expresses the belief that Mrs Thatcher will go home carrying a picture completely different from the unrealistic one the British have been accustomed to, particularly with regard to the Gulf.

Concerning the economic dimension, the paper affirms that there is a common desire to develop cooperation in the trade, economic and educational fields. During a period of a few months, it adds, the achievements in this dimension have reassuringly exceeded all expectations and estimates.

AL-JAZIRAH also describes Mrs Thatcher's visit as being extraordinary and extremely important. Despite the coolness in relations between Saudi Arabia and Britain, which has always been caused by differences over principles affecting the attitudes of both countries toward the issues of Palestine, the occupied territory and the usurped rights, these relations have seen long periods of good relations and common interests during which mutual respect and understanding have prevailed despite differences on political principles.

While the British leadership has always appreciated the genuine Saudi attitude toward the Middle East question, the paper writes, the Saudi leadership, which is motivated in its actions and statements by reason, farsightedness and wisdom, has never belittled Britain's weight in the international arena nor has it ever underestimated the major and indeed important role which the British leadership can play in the international efforts being exerted for reaching a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis based on justice, right and honor.

AL-JAZIRAH calls on Mrs Thatcher to understand the Saudi views which reflect the collective Arab views on an acceptable formula to which the Arab nation would be prepared to agree with regard to the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and tha establishment of a just, lasting peace in the Middle East.

AL-JAZIRAH affirms that British conviction by the Saudi clarifications regarding Arab views which stand for the retrival of every inch of occupied territory and the usurped legitimate Palestinian rights as being the only basis for the establishment of peace in the Middle East will enable the United Kingdom to play the role expected of it within the framework of the impending European initiative.

PAPER VIEWS U.S. WARNING ON SITUATION IN CHAD

NC221015 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, AL-AKHBAR comments on a warning by U.S. intelligence sources of an expected explosion on the Chad borders. The paper says that the Libyan concentration and the forces that Hissein Habre is amassing in eastern Chad and in northwestern Sudan threaten the occurrence of clashes, which could involve Egypt, and in which Nigeria, France and the other big powers will participate.

Actually the warning--which was published in some American papers--is based on correct information. The situation is not stable due to the presence of Al-Qadhdhafi's forces in Chad, as well as the fact that Hissein Habre has not surrendered. He has withdrawn so as to take up new positions in which to amass his forces preparatory to resuming the fighting. A further cause is the Libyan-Soviet occupation defending Chad. France is also in a state of readiness because it knows full well that the Soviets aim is to remove French influence from this African region so as to replace it with Soviet strategy. The paper explains that after the invasion of Chad by the Libyan forces and the Soviet experts, France--which used to have a pacifist stand on events in this African region--began making preparations for a serious confrontation of the situation.

In this context, the paper points out that Egypt has declared and affirmed its position more than once, and has said that it will deter any move that is aimed against Sudan, or crosses the border from Chad into Sudan.

AL-AKHBAR also affirms that all the elements in the warning of the U.S. intelligence are real and firm and that Egypt took this into consideration right from the start: Egypt was the first to warn--when it said that Egypt and Sudan are one country and that any aggressive move on the Sudanese border would be considered as an aggression against Egypt. These are not mere words but a realistic style coupled with readiness to face all eventualities in a strong and deterrent manner.

AL-AKHBAR points out that Egypt's stand has toppled the plans of Al-Qadhdhafi and those who support him, particularly since Sudan has announced the restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt and Egypt's announcement to strike back at any aggression aimed at Sudan. When Al-Qadhdhafi saw that Egypt's stand on this was serious, and not a joke, he was disappointed and it was only natural that he should wait a while and delay the implementation of his plan until a new course arose. Instead, he proceeded to move toward Mauritania, to work against Morocco and Tunisia--or, in other words, to oppose the French strategy in the North African region in favor of Soviet ambitions and goals.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR warns against the maneuvers that the Soviets are drawing up for Al-Qadhdhafi, affirming that we must always be vigilant and ready so as not to leave room for Al-Qadhdhafi's contentiousness and Soviet conspiracies.

COMMENTARY VIEWS SOVIET, U.S. ROLES IN MIDEAST

NC211651 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "The Attitude of the Various Parties Toward the Middle East Conflict"]

[Text] The Middle East region is presently the main arena of conflict between the superpowers. Naturally, each of the two superpowers has its own viewpoint on how to serve its interests. The United States believes that the continuation of the status quo in the region ensures U.S. and Western interests. It believes that continuation of the status quo requires stability.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, believes that if such stability requires maintaining the status quo in the region it means depriving the Soviet Union of the strategic advantages of the region, which it covets. So, to the Soviets, stability does not serve their aims and interests and therefore they reject everything that promotes such stability. They reject the Camp David agreements. They oppose the idea of UN peacekeeping forces in Sinai. They make a point of frustrating any change in the formation of the UN forces in Lebanon that could restrict the Syrian forces' control of Lebanese territory. If any of these things were to happen it would mean promoting stability in the region, or, in other words, it would mean obstructing Soviet ambitions in the Middle East.

In view of the Soviet attitude and Moscow's way of serving its own interests, as in the case of Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, the U.S. administration became aware of the danger of maintaining silence. It soon announced a firm plan for the protection of stability in the region, based on intensifying its military presence in it and giving priority to defending its own interests on the basis of confronting the dangers of Soviet penetration. However, in the wake of the recent visit of its secretary of state, Alexander Haig, to the region, the U.S. administration agreed to modify some of the details of this plan after Haig discovered that the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the lack of a settlement for the Palestine problem constitute the main obstacle in the way of fulfilling the objectives of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. This is why Haig announced that meeting the Soviet threat to the region and the efforts to promote peace in the area can proceed side by side without either getting priority over the other.

At this point it can be said that there is agreement between the United States and the states in the region on the way of facing the dangers threatening it. Still, the U.S. secretary of state discovered that there is disagreement between the United States and some of the states he visited and that this disagreement is a weak point in the face of the danger threatening the area.

Haig announced that the United States is working for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of Camp David and confirmed the identity of U.S. and Egyptian views in this connection. He later found out, however, that some of the so-called moderate states insist on rejecting the Camp David course, despite the fact that they have no alternative to it. We believe that the attitude of these states is no different from that of Israel toward the issues of promoting peace and security in the Middle East. Although Israel did sign these agreements it has refused to adhere to them correctly because such correct adherence ultimately means complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Just as Haig's visit to Israel, during his tour of the region, revealed that he could find nothing there to indicate that it has changed its rejection of correct adherence to the Camp David agreements, the tour showed him that some Arab states still insist on their rejection of these agreements. We see no disagreement between these two positions except in form. Neither of them serves the cause of peace in the Middle East or protects the region from the threat of foreign penetration.

AL-JUMHURIYAH COMMENTS ON U.S. FACILITIES POLICY

NC180845 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Egypt encountered bitter experiences with foreign bases because they restricted Egypt's national independence and infringed upon its national sovereignty over every inch of its territory. AL-JUMHURIYAH says that when Egypt offered to give military facilities to the United States because it is a friendly country, the offer was made on the condition that these facilities will be in the service of any Arab or Islamic country that may ask for assistance against aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Iraqi-Iranian war the conditions in the area reveal the gravity of the situation facing the oil-rich Gulf countries, which are the Soviet's first ambition. In addition to complete vigilance to deter any aggression, the situation requires military preparations and the availability of the most modern weapons. In conclusion the paper stresses that what we need is not bases but arms; it is the duty of friends to supply arms.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SINAI

NC202208 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that during the meeting he held today with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Egypt's permanent UN representative, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, they discussed the question of the formation of the UN peacekeeping force and the position of the UN Security Council member states on this question as well as the Egyptian movement plan in the coming stage.

He said that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid reviewed the outcome of his contacts with the UN Security Council member states which showed that the Soviet Union still opposes the formation of a UN emergency force and that it has been maintaining this position since September 1979. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Egypt will hold further contacts in the coming stage for the formation of the UN emergency force, which will supervise Israel's withdrawal from Egyptian territory in accordance with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

UN Envoy's Remarks

NC211422 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Egyptian permanent UN Representative Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has said that the Soviet Union's stand, obstructing the formation of a UN peacekeeping force in Sinai, is not based on any UN principles and that the Security Council is fully responsible for keeping the peace. 'Abd al-Majid said that during the contacts which have taken place so far, it has become apparent that the Soviet Union opposes any draft resolution on the formation of a peacekeeping force in Sinai submitted to the Security Council and that the council will not be able to carry out its duty--that of preserving peace and security.

'Abd al-Majid said that withdrawal operation from the occupied territories is one of the matters which must not rouse any problem. He added that Egypt is currently studying the next plan in order to continue its efforts for the formation of a UN peacekeeping force.

'Abd al-Majid said that the situation in Lebanon is a matter of anxiety to Egypt and to the entire area. He added that Egypt has made contacts with the friendly states so that the Security Council may adopt a stand that would put an end to the fighting in Lebanon.

'Abd al-Majid said that the nonaligned executive bureau, which met in Algiers and in which Egypt participated, has agreed on the need of Namibia's attaining independence before the end of the current year. It demanded that the United States, France, Britain, Canada and the FRG should assume responsibilities for exerting pressure on the Government of South Africa to withdraw from Namibia.

GHALI COMMENTS ON PEACE PROCESS TO DANISH PAPER

NC211931 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today held Israel and the Arab extremists responsible for the nonparticipation of the Palestinians in the peace process so far.

In an interview with the Danish paper KRISTELICT DAGBLAD, Dr Ghali rejected the claim by some Arab states that negotiations and peace will be disastrous for the Palestinians. Logically, he said, this claim is self-contradictory.

Dr Ghali also said that the Arab rejection diplomacy and the Israeli settlements policy in the West Bank are responsible for the Palestinian rejectionof the peace process. He added that the urgent issue at present is not so much the future status of the Palestinians as it is their participation in the negotiations.

ACTING UN ENVOY SENDS WALDHEIM MESSAGE ON LEBANON

NC220750 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Egypt has called on the United Nations to take urgent and effective measures to stop the sheding of blood, savage actions and the annihilation of people and property in Lebanon. It also called for an immediate cease-fire to end this ordeal and for consolidation of the legitimate authority of the Lebanese Government. Egypt expressed extreme anxiety over the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and warned that this situation could have disastrous consequences, not only for Lebanon's stability and unity but also for peace and security in the region and in the world.

This was contained in a message addressed by the acting Egyptian UN representative, Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, to the UN secretary general. The message explained Egypt's position on the recent events in Lebanon and affirmed that Egypt fully supports Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also expressed the hope that all parties concerned would behave in a spirit of responsibility, wisdom and foresight in order to protect the existence of Lebanon as a member of the international community. The message also says that, on the basis of Egypt's awareness of the unpredictable results of this situation, it joins in the peace-loving countries' call for an immediate cease-fire so as to stop these human tribulations and consolidate the Lebanese Government's legitimate authority over all Lebanon. The message further says that as an Arab country shouldering pan-Arab and regional responsibilities, Egypt canot discount a spread of this explosive regional peril, and calls on the United Nations to take expeditious and effective action in support of the legitimate government in Lebanon so as to bring a peaceful end to the causes of the internal conflict.

TALKS HELD WITH LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

NC192007 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)--Official talks between Egypt and Liberia started this evening at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The Egyptian side is headed by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, while the Liberian side is headed by Liberian Foreign Minister Bacchus Matthews. The Egyptian side also includes the Foreign Ministry's first deputy, Ambassador Salah Sha'rawi; the director of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ahmad Hatatah; and the director of the Minister's Bureau, Sa'd al-Fararji. The Liberian side also includes the delegation accompanying the foreign minister.

The discussions lasted 2 hours. At the end of the talks Liberian Foreign Minister Bacchus Matthews stated that they were very fruitful and constructive and that they had dealt with bilateral relations as well as a review of the international situation in general and the African Continent in particular.

Mr Matthews said that during his meeting today with Vice President Husni Mubarak he conveyed a message to President Anwar as-Sadat from the Liberian president which dealt with a number of topics of common interest. To a question on the Libyan intervention in Chad, the Liberian foreign minister replied that the Chadian people have the right to determine their own future. He added that this topic will be on the agenda of the forthcoming African summit in Nairobi.

In his statement, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that the talks between the Egyptian and Liberian parties were constructive and useful. He said they resulted in complete agreement with regard to the topics related to Africa that were discussed. He added that the two sides agreed on the need to bolster cooperation between their countries, inasmuch as such cooperation will bolster and strengthen African solidarity. Dr Ghali added that the discussions also dealt with the subject of Namibia and the forthcoming African summit.

SWEDEN'S ULLSTEN DEPARTS AFTER 6-DAY VISIT

NC201117 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten left Cairo this morning at the end of a 6-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he was received by President as-Sadat. His excellency also held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on international questions and on the European Community's role in giving impetus to the peace process in order to achieve a comprehensive solution for the Middle East crisis.

Ullsten affirmed his country's support for the peace efforts, its appreciation for President as-Sadat's initiative and Sweden's readiness to participate in the efforts that are being exerted to bring peace to the Middle East area.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER RESPONDS TO 'UTHMAN BOOK

NC211152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)--Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Traders Association Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Hijazi has rejected the accusations, contained in a book by Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, that several violations were committed while Dr Hijazi was prime minister. In a statement released yesterday, Dr Hijazi said that he would defer his answer to Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's published allegations against him until the factfinding committee meets and until he testifies before it. He said that he would support his statements with documents that refute the allegations, lies and slander, but added that he feared what the author had published would be imbedded in the minds of the people. He added that the place for taking the author to account was before the impartial Egyptian courts.

In his statement, Dr 'Abdaal-'Aziz Hijazi outlined the details of the agreement which he had signed with the Kuwaiti Government in the presence of Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman on the implementation of several projects, including popular housing, real estate development and tourism. Hijazi said that Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman personally had held negotiations in Kuwait and had presented maps for construction planning and lands allocated for the popular housing, but these facts he attempted to conceal in his book, making the reader believe that it was he who had protected Egypt against aliens.

In his statement, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Hijazi recalled some events which had taken place while he was in office and which Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman described in his book. Hijazi affirmed that what was written in the book was contrary to facts. Hijazi said: The author persistently made insinuations and attempted to discredit the agreements concluded during my visit to the Arab states in 1974, while he himself was a member of the official delegation accompanying me.

As to Engineer 'Uthman's passage in his book to the effect that the establishment of real estate investment companies amounted to selling Egyptian territory, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Hijazi asked: Was Engineer 'Uthman's approval of these projects, while he was in office in the ministry, a sale of Egyptian territory, and have we consequently become aliens in our country? He said that the author allowed himself to defame those who had died and behave arrogantly toward those still alive.

SKACHKOV SIGNS ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINUTES

JN212025 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] The joint minutes of the 11th session of the permanent committee on economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals this evening. They were signed for Iraq by Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member, minister of industry and minerals and head of the Iraqi side to the committee, and for the Soviet Union by Semen Skachkov, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of his country's side to the committee.

Tahir Tawfiq said that the signing of the joint minutes is considered a step along the path of developing our economic and technical relations with the Soviet Union. He added that the forthcoming stage will witness a large-scale development in the field of cooperation, pointing out that this session has achieved success in expanding the avenues of this cooperation. He stressed Iraq's sincere desire to develop the relations of friendship with the Soviet Union for the sake of intensifying struggle against imperialism and world Zionism. He pointed out that this session was held under extraordinary circumstances created by the traitorous war imposed on our country by the racist Persians with a view to undermining our rights to and sovereignty over our lands and waters.

Skachkov delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation to the members of the two sides to the committee for the extraordinary efforts they exerted and the sincere desire to develop the scopes of cooperation, stressing his country's desire to strengthen and develop the existing bilateral relations through the Soviet Union's commitment to implementing the agreements signed with Iraq.

The minutes provide for developing the cooperation in the fields of industry, trade, agriculture, irrigation, transport; training cadres on the basis of reciprocal benefits; accomplishing the projects implemented by the Soviet Union in Iraq; and overcoming the difficulties and problems that may arise in this respect.

[Baghdad INA in Arabic at 0930 GMT on 22 April adds that Semen Skachkov "left Baghdad for Kuwait today at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq".]

ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH USSR MARKED

JN181937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)--The Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society celebrated here tonight the ninth anniversary of the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

'Abd al-Fattah Amin, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Iraqi societies of friendship with peoples, delivered a speech in which he said: Our faith will remain firm and strong on the need to develop relations with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist states. He praised the efforts of the workers of the Soviet Union and other socialist states to implement development projects in Iraq and to continue work on them despite the war circumstances.

Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, chairman of the Iraqi-Soviet Society, then delivered a speech in which he expressed pleasure over this occasion, which embodies the developed relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union on the one hand, and with the socialist bloc states in general. He said that such relations serve the Iraqi and Soviet peoples' interests and consolidate the close cooperation among the world states on the bases of equality, respect for national sovereignty and nonintervention in internal affairs.

Soviet Ambassador in Baghdad Anatoliy Barkovskiy delivered a speech in which he said that Iraqi-Soviet relations, which are based on the treaty, will continue to develop on all levels. He greeted the efforts by the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement to find a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

The celebration was attended by members of the Soviet Embassy, the Soviet community in Baghdad and a crowd of citizens.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 313

JN211732 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Communique No 313 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 21 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued to pound the racist Persian enemy in the operations sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Two were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Three were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Mehran region.
C. One vehicle was destroyed in the Dezful region.
D. One of our advanced units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Shush region, strongly pounded it with all its weapons and forced it to retreat after having sustained 52 killed. One vehicle was destroyed in the same region.
E. Our units pounded with all weapons an enemy concentration near our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 28 dead.
F. Two vehicles, one of which was carrying ammunition, were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
G. Our units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region, killing 24 and destroying 5 infantry positions, 1 excavator, 2 observation posts and 3 ammunition stockpiles.
H. In a dogfight today our planes downed an enemy F-14 near Taheri, south of Ahvaz city.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 109 dead, 5 infantry positions, 5 vehicles, 1 excavator, 2 observation posts, 3 ammunition stockpiles and 1 F-14.

II. It has been confirmed that as a result of our units' activities, the enemy has sustained the following losses:

A. Fifty-seven were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin in the period from 14 to 18 April.
B. One hundred and twenty-seven were killed on 19 April this year, in addition to the losses declared at that time in the Shush region.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Six martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, two vehicles, one field gun and one mortar were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 April 1981

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS KUWAIT, BAHRAIN VISITS

JN191713 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim returned to Amman this afternoon after a short visit to fraternal Kuwait and Bahrain during which he conveyed two messages from His Majesty King Husayn, one to Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah and the other to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the minister said that the two messages dealt with the latest developments in the Arab region and the international movements which intensified lately, including U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Jordan during which Jordan stressed its clear stand on the Middle East based on the principle of a just and comprehensive solution acceptable to Jordan and the Arab nation. He added that Jordan stressed the need for the United States to participate in the international efforts to secure the right and to lift oppression and aggression from the Palestinian people.

Al-Qasim said that he met with Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah and the Bahraini heir apparent and explained to them Jordan's contacts with world states on the total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and on the Palestinian people's exercise of their legitimate rights, including their right to determine their future on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. The foreign minister said that the world community must recognize the PLO's basic role in achieving the sought peace.

He pointed out that he reviewed with the Bahraini heir apparent current Arab affairs and the painful situation in Lebanon. He added that the two sides stressed that the solution of fraternal Lebanon's crisis must be based on intensifying joint Arab work to help Lebanon rebuild itself and to pave the way for the legitimate authority to assert itself.

He added that his visit to the two fraternal countries came within the framework of the ongoing tours made by Jordanian officials to contact officials in the fraternal Arab states in order to acquaint them with Jordan's assessment of the situation in the region because Jordan believes in the need to continue consultations and to coordinate serious stands on issues of interest to the Arab region, which has recently come under pressure. He said that this pressure must be accounted for to avoid danger. He said that we believe that through coordination, the Arab states will not give the foreign states the chance to infiltrate into a position to influence our nation, its rights and interests.

UNRWA'S INTENTION TO END SERVICES REJECTED

JN202037 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has appealed to the world community to uphold its humanitarian responsibilities toward the Palestinian refugees and to cover the deficit from which UNRWA is suffering, which threatens to end its educational services.

Speaking at today's National Consultative Council [NCC] session, which was held under NCC Speaker Ahmad at-Tarawinah, Prime Minister Badran stressed that Jordan categorically rejects the intention to end UNRWA's educational services to the Palestinian refugees. Prime Minister Badran explained that UNRWA's responsibility toward the Palestinian refugees is an international duty that has been decided upon by the United Nations and that, therefore, no other side whatever has the right to take any measure that may oppose this decision.

Prime Minister Badran added: Those refugees have had enough injustice, oppression and disavowal of their national rights by the Israeli enemy. Hence, UNRWA has no right to add injustice to injustice by disavowing the Palestinian refugees' humanitarian rights, which were recognized by the world community.

Prime Minister Badran pointed out that the Jordanian Government has notified UNRWA of its absolute rejection of the intentions to end the educational services. The prime minister added that Jordan will continue its political efforts on all international levels to cope with UNRWA's measures and that the Jordanian Government's stand regarding this issue is based on the following points:

1. The Palestinian refugees have an indisputable right to benefit from UNRWA's educational services.
2. Jordan reiterates that the responsibility of offering services to the Palestinian refugees is the responsibility of the entire world community.
3. The termination of UNRWA's educational services to the Palestinian refugees will only double the injustice caused to the Palestinians as a result of the Israeli occupation. The termination of the educational services is a very inhuman measure.
4. The termination of the educational services that are now offered to the Palestinian refugees will subject the teachers and the rest of UNRWA school employees to dispersal. This measure will also add more financial burdens on Jordan, burdens which will be impossible to endure.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that if UNRWA implemented its intention to terminate the educational services, the result would lead to the closure of 204 schools containing 137,000 students. The prime minister explained further that some 4,000 persons, 3,750 of whom are teachers, will also be dispersed. He also said that the total salaries of all those employees amounts to $37 million.

After that, a general debate was held during which the NCC members unanimously agreed to support the prime minister's report on this issue. NCC Speaker Ahmad at-Tarawinah announced that the NCC completely backs the government's stand on this issue and supports the prime minister's report in this regard. The NCC members also extended their thanks to the government for this stand.

AD-DUSTUR NOTES UK INFLUENCE; VIEWS THATCHER TOUR

JN200938 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Thatcher and the New Beginning" AD-DUSTUR comments on this 3-day visit during which Mrs Thatcher will meet with Saudi officials to discuss world economic and political issues, the situation in the Gulf and the region and bilateral relations. The paper says: Although Mrs Thatcher is the first of those who have assumed British premiership to visit Saudi Arabia, this visit comes amid many present, past and future events and the results of it will largely define the relations between the Arab world and the United Kingdom.

The British prime minister has described Saudi Arabia as an important country on the international and regional levels, and that it has a huge economic potential. She also praised the development progress achieved by Saudi Arabia. Her minister of state for foreign affairs, however, clarified things more when he said that the talks will deal with the Middle East issue, and the issue of security in the Gulf in light of the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. He alluded to the fact that the British Government is concerned in seeking a settlement in the area.

The truth is that officials in Saudi Arabia have informed the British prime minister about many of their ideas on the issues that will be discussed during the visit.

AD-DUSTUR added: Saudi Arabia, two weeks ago, explained to the U.S. secretary of state that it does not believe that there is a Soviet danger to the area, but that it views the danger to the area, to peace and to the Gulf as coming from the policy of aggression represented by the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. Saudi Arabia also stated, through its foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, that it believes the Soviet Union must participate in any international efforts to seek a settlement of the crisis in the area.

Concerning security in the Gulf, the Saudi officials reiterated the need to remove the area from the big powers' interference, stressing that cooperation between Gulf countries and these big powers must continue to provide the former with weapons that will enable them to build the necessary military strength.

As for the Palestinian cause, Saudi officials reiterated the Palestinian people's right to self-determination under the PLO and explained that the Saudi viewpoints on these delicate issues are the same as those adopted by the Arab summit resolutions and that they not only represent the Saudi stand but that of all the Arabs.

Mrs Thatcher is called upon to speak to the Arabs in another language than the one in which the Balfour Declaration and UN Resolution 242 were formulated. She must also understand the developments that have taken place in the area and have affected its people and their stands against alliances and their sensitivity concerning colonialist opportunism.

The United Kingdom's voice is heard in the United States more than any other party. It also has a voice in Europe. The United Kingdom's latest trend in dealing with the PLO, even if it takes place under a formal European cover, is a trend which is welcomed in the Arab world. Its retraction concerning the Rapid Deployment Force project also constitutes an encouraging sign to the Arabs. But the Arabs call on the United Kingdom, as they have called on Europe, to move out of the circle of mere talks and factfinding missions to the stage of quick and clear action, not only against Israeli settlement and intervention in southern Lebanon, as the UK minister of state for foreign affairs has mentioned, but also against blatant Israeli aggression and against the Western trends that insist on flattering this aggression in various forms.

Such stands might constitute a new and successful beginning in Arab-British relations and might also contribute to building new bridges between the Arab world and the United Kingdom. They also might contribute to lessening the tension that has increased in the area and the entire world.

SOCIALIST PARTY DEMANDS ARMY MOVE TO SOUTH

NC211633 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] The Democratic Socialist Party held a meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Kamil al-As'ad with the deputies representing the front for democratic reform. The conferees reviewed the situation in the south. After the meeting, a statement was issued which said: The Israeli ambitions in the south are the basis of the conspiracy against this country. These ambitions have threatened Lebanon's very existence by bringing to the fore all the local, Arab and international contradictions in the Lebanese arena.

The statement added: Confronting the challenge existing in the south is the natural approach to tackling the crisis existing in Lebanon.

The statement demanded that the army enter the south quickly. The statement made [Electricity and Water Resources] Minister as-Sabbah's position in the government conditional on the entry of the army [in the south] to extend legitimacy and to impose law and order.

MINISTER AL-HIRAWI EXPLAINS AIRPORT SITUATION

NC211430 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] The security situation in Beirut has not been any better than in the south. Following the feverish night in the capital and the southern suburb, relative calm returned this morning. However, explosions and sniper fire continue to be heard sporadically on the contact lines. The situation took a turn for the worse at noon, when there was an intense missile exchange on the contact lines, particularly in the commercial sector, An-Nasirah, the Sodeco, the Primo, Ra's an-Nab' and At-Tayyunah.

Furthermore, at noon today Israeli aircraft broke the sound barrier over the capital, drawing gunfire.

Concerning road conditions, the Galerie Sim'an-Ash-Shiyah Road saw light traffic this morning, but this came to a halt at noon because of sniper fire.

Aircraft activity at Beirut International Airport was halted this morning because of the security situation. However, Public Works Minister Ilyas al-Hirawi at noon today announced that the airport was open for air travel. Minister al-Hirawi said:

[Begin recording][Question] The issue of whether or not to close Beirut International Airport was raised today, because the security situation has deteriorated. What has the government decided?

[Answer] Indeed, this subject has been under consideration since yesterday. It was raised at exactly 1430, when some shells fell on the airport's runways and near it. However, the relentless efforts that we have exerted with the various parties concerned--without anyone admitting to us that he is responsible for this shelling--enabled us to permit seven planes to land and eight to take off before 1930. At around 2130, I was informed that some shells had again hit the airport. Last night, we made no decision. This morning, I feared that the security situation would deteriorate, and I was not sufficiently convinced that the airport was safeguarded. Therefore, we decided to close the airport temporarily. However, and at this very time and after we had become confident that the security situation within the airport and near it was constantly improving, we contacted his excellency the president, his excellency the prime minister and some minister colleagues. Consequently, we ordered the airport director to declare the Beirut airport open. We are awaiting reports on security developments in Lebanon, particularly at the airport, before making a final decision. [end recording]

ADF ISSUES STATEMENT ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC211838 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Apr 81

[21 April statement by a responsible source at the Arab Deterrent Forces command--read by announcer]

[Text] The security situation became tense at noon today along the contact lines in the museum perimeter as a result of the exchange of sniper fire. The sniping soon developed into a clash with heavy weapons during which artillery shells were exchanged. A shell fell on the building of the Arab Deterrent Forces command, slightly wounding five military personnel and causing material damage.

Contacts were held with the parties concerned to tackle the situation and the shelling stopped at 1500.

Concerning the general situation, several shells fell this afternoon on the contact lines, residential quarters and the airport area. The situation was tackled and it is now comparatively calm. The situation in Zahlah is moderate.

According to military sources, a military vehicle, which was moving a wounded person from the military court area to Al-Barbir Hospital, came under fire this afternoon before reaching the hospital. As a result, the wounded soldier, Pvt (Samih Abu Ibrahim) was martyred and Cpl (Ma'ruf ash-Sha'ar), Pvt (Muhammad 'Abbas) and Pvt ('Ali Nur Ad-Din), who were escorting the wounded soldier, were wounded.

The shelling of the army's positions along the contact lines this afternoon resulted in the wounding of Lt (Ghassan Hajjar), who was seriously hit in the head; Cpl (Emille al-'Asfur); Cpl (Sa'id Zakhariya); Pvt ('Abd an-Nasir Fakhr ad-Din); Pvt (Muhammad Rabah); Pvt (Mahmud al-Ahmad); Pvt (Antoine Matar); Pvt ('Ali Hammud); Pvt (Muhammad Husayn Shuman); Pvt (Muhammad Musa); Pvt (Tanyus al-Hashiti); Pvt (Khalid Safiyyah) and Pvt (Wadi' Nasrallah).

AL-JUMAYYIL REPORTEDLY SUPPORTS SYRIA DIALOGUE

NC161920 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Beirut, 16 Apr (AFP)--Christian leader Bashir al-Jumayyil, whose militia battled Syrian troops of the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) at the central Lebanese city of Zahlah, said today that he supported a dialogue with Damascus "in order to find an in-depth solution to the Lebanese problem."

"We want to consider fundamental problems with the Syrians," Mr al-Jumayyil told a press conference. "We are prepared to offer guarantees on condition that we are offered the same."

The Christian leader pledged that his militia would insure that Syria was not threatened from Lebanese territory.

He added that the recent round of fighting had cost 600 deaths here in Beirut and at Zahlah.

ARAB AMBASSADORS MEET PRESIDENT, MAKE STATEMENTS

Tunisian Ambassador

NC220858 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] This morning President Ilyas Sarkis received Tunisian Ambassador to Lebanon Mohamed Jenifane in the presence of Foreign Minister Butrus.

Afterward, the Tunisian ambassador said: I have communicated to President Sarkis my government's concern over the difficult situation through which fraternal Lebanon is passing. He acquainted me with some aspects of the Lebanese question. I asked the president whether he wants to convey certain desires to the Tunisian Government. I will leave for my country shortly.

Kuwaiti Ambassador

NC211102 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis is following the situation from the presidential palace. At 1100 today, he met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in the presence of Ministers Fu'ad Butrus, Rene Mu'awwad, Ilyas al-Hirawi and Khatchik Babikian.

At 1000 President Sarkis received, in the presence of Minister Butrus, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan. The meeting lasted 40 minutes.

Answering a question after the meeting about the Kuwaiti move on the Lebanese crisis, the Kuwaiti ambassador said: There is no move in the broad sense of the word, but Kuwait is sympathetic over the events in Lebanon. In this context, we have a specific view on contributing toward a solution, and we have conveyed this view to President Sarkis and exchanged opinions. We are attempting to achieve success and to pave the way for achieving any move in the future.

Regarding Kuwait's invitation to roundtable talks by the conflicting parties, the Kuwaiti ambassador said: We are studying these matters and we are trying to provide the means of success.

Ambassador al-Bu'ayjan added that he has conveyed an oral message from the Kuwaiti amir to President Sarkis, but he declined to reveal its contents.

HADDAD MAKES SPEECH ON SYRIAN ROLE 16 Apr

NC170716 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1006 GMT 16 Apr 81

[16 April speech by 'free Lebanon'Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad--live or recorded]

[Text] Brother Lebanese people, I would like to talk to you about a few things. It has been quite a while since we have talked.

Today we are all still interested in what has happened and is still happening in Zahlah and elsewhere. They said that there was a cease-fire, so our hopes rose because we have never been warmongers; we have always been advocates of peace. We hope that the cease-fire will continue and eventually develop into permanent peace throughout Lebanon. However, what is the meaning of opening fire at this time when Zahlah is surrounded from all sides, so much so that it is even difficult for a bird to enter or leave Zahlah? How can the world accept such logic?

If the Syrians had good intentions they would have at least provided a life line for the people of Zahlah. Here we must recall an incident: When the Syrians took control of the hills overlooking Qa' ar-Rim the inhabitants began to flee. Some of them tried to escape in the direction of Beirut, but the Syrians stopped them and forced them to escape in the direction of Zahlah. Why? Because they wanted the difficulties to mount inside and they wanted the pressure on the people to mount so that the people of Zahlah would reach the point of pitiable despair and then ask the Syrian Army to enter Zahlah.

We know the bravery and heroism of the people of Zahlah and we know that no matter how great their difficulty becomes, they would never make such a request. The people of old Tyre who stood fast against Alexander and who preferred death to surrender were the ancestors of the people of Zahlah. The people of Zahlah are the offspring of the legendary heroes of Tyre and Sidon.

We ask: How can Hafiz al-Asad permit himself to boast about his victory in Zahlah? I was reading the newspapers today. I saw them full of photographs of the Syrian forces on the hills surrounding Zahlah with press reporters there. [Words indistinct] I looked again at the photographs, thinking that perhaps they were on the Golan Heights with the Syrians showing their heroics there, but I discovered that the photographs were of the heights of Zahlah. What a shame!

What is worse is that some Lebanese are happy to see these pictures and are dancing with joy about this kind of heroism.

Against whom is this victory? Against the Lebanese people, whether they are Phalangists or not. What business is it of the Syrians if they opened a road between Zahlah and Juniyah? What business is it of the Syrians? I do not understand. Has Hafiz al-Asad inherited Zahlah and Lebanon from his father and grandfather?

Is Hafiz al-Asad asking for his rights? One time he makes demands on Jordan; at other times he makes demands on Lebanon. Before looking right and left, let him think about the Golan Heights and give up the title of the Golan fox. History gave him the title of the Golan fox, so let him not apply the same to Zahlah. After what he has done, history will give him the title of rabbit of Zahlah.

So, Mr Hafiz, let your heroics not be at the expense of the Lebanese. You say that they should not carry arms and should not do this or that. Well, what about the other areas under your control in Lebanon? Why don't you prevent the terrorists and those helping them from carrying arms? Why don't you disarm them? Why don't you do that in Tripoli, in western Beirut, and other areas in Al-Biqa' and the south?

You still blame the Phalangists and others for carrying arms or taking arms from Israel or from any other country. As long as you seek to kill them, they will take arms from anybody in order to protect themselves from you and those ill-intentioned parties.

Anyway, we, along with others, will not recognize the victory of the Syrian Army over the civilians in Zahlah. The future will prove that the pleasure Hafiz al-Asad is enjoying today over Zahlah will turn into a disaster for Hafiz al-Asad and his army.

Let us talk a little about our Lebanese affairs. During the battles, the Christian ministers, particularly the ministers who came from Zahlah, appealed to the world to help them stop the massacre of the sons of Zahlah. Some countries responded to the appeal; others failed to do so.

During the battles, Israel carried out an operation against the saboteurs inside the lines of the Syrian forces [words indistinct]. The operation was followed by the shelling of saboteur positions. I say to you frankly that this operation was aimed to reduce the pressure on Zahlah and to render a service to the sons of Zahlah.

However, regrettably, the ministers who come from Zahlah, instead of thanking Israel for its deed, because it was the only country to make practical moves to support the sons of Zahlah, and others--Joseph Skaf, the dutiful son of Zahlah, condemned the operation and accused Israel of plotting to destroy Lebanon without raising one word against Syria.

What do you want to do? You cry for (?help) and when someone comes to your assistance you reject them. Then you blame the world for failing to help you. We want to know: Do you want the Palestinians and the Syrians [words indistinct] and shut your mouth.

If you want your town of Zahlah, be frank and say what you want and attack the Syrians, at least verbally. And if a deed is done in favor of Zahlah and you cannot thank those who did it then keep silent. Do not harm the sons of your town. Or are you afraid about your Arab future? What future would you have, Jospeh Skaf and Abu Khatir, if the troops of your town were gone? I do not want to mention [Public Works Minister] al-Hirawi because his stands to date are good. He has proven to be better than the others.

Regarding [Minister of State for Municipal Development Affairs] Abu Khatir, he visited Assam Qansu on behalf of the president of the republic to present condolences on the death of his brother. Assam Qansu represents Syria.

Abu Khatir, have you forgotten that Syria is killing the sons of your town? Is there no blood in your face? Do you not have feelings? Go and see if there is a shop to buy some human feelings, national feelings or a little pride. How did you allow yourself to visit Assam Qansu while the massacre against the sons of your town was continuing? Or is it okay with you because you are safe? [Words indistinct] say what you want.

I will not comment on the president of the republic because it is not worthwhile.

His role has been exposed to the whole world. I expressed my opinion about him a long time ago. People used to come and tell me that the poor man is helpless and can do nothing else and that if he takes a stand it might divide Lebanon and so on. Well, is it better for him not to take any stand and provide legal cover for the Syrians? And is it better for all Lebanon to be lost?

If Lebanon is going to be divided, let it be divided. If it is a question of exterminating hundreds of thousands of Christians so that Syria can annex Lebanon, is it better to keep Lebanon united? No, by God. If this is the case, then let it be divided, and let these people remain alive, if only out of mercy and regard for the poor and innocent people.

Soon he would perhaps earn himself a medal for his silence and for serving the Syrians.

So, what now? Is salvation going to come from Syria and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who has asked Fu'ad Butrus to go and see him because he wants to give him a good lesson? He wants to make him pay for holding a meeting with the Lebanese Front.

I do not know where we are heading, but I repeat once again that the salvation of Lebanon can only come at the hands of its people. The Lebanese must rely on themselves, and they must be aware of the danger threatening them. They must trust no one but God and Lebanon. They should consider what brings salvation to Lebanon and do it.

Let us take Walid Junblatt for example. Walid Junblatt is working against his own conscience and principles. It may be because he is afraid. He knows that his father, may God bless his soul, was against the entry of the Syrians and that, as a result, they buried him.

We all know today that our Druze brothers--both the Arslans and the Junblatts--never liked the terrorists and never saw eye to eye with them. I will give you, as an example, my own experience. I do not know, ever since 1969 I have been having problems with the terrorists, thank God. As an officer I always stayed with the soldiers in the field; I was not a desk officer. I tell you frankly, because our problems have, since 1969, been with the terrorists. I used to depend more on the Druze elements than on the Christian elements in resisting and confronting the terrorists. I always felt reassured when there was a Druze at the head of a post and when the machinegun was carried by a Druze, regardless of whether he was an Arslan Druze or a Junblatt Druze. I know that there is an old hostility between the Druze and the terrorists, especially because the Druze in Lebanon are patriots and have always loved Lebanon.

Another special reason is that the terrorists once killed an Israeli Druze. I still remember; they cut his head off. They left his body in Israel and took his head to show it around in Al-'Urqub. All the Druze shaykhs intervened to get the head back to bury it with the rest of his body, but to no avail. This is because the terrorists bear a grudge against the honorable Druze sect.

I feel sorry today that Walid Junblatt is toeing a line which is very far from our way of thinking so as to involve the Druze in something sectarian, as happened in Salim where they killed 11 young Christian men. This is not worth it. We have nobody but each other. In the end, we have nobody but each other.

It is true that Syria is using you now, Walid Junblatt; it is using you for its own objectives. You remember the fate of the Druze community in Syria during the 1967 war. When this war broke out, there was a colonel, whose name as far as I remember was Hatum, who was living in exile in Jordan. The man went to Syria on his own accord and offered his services. He wanted to participate in the war and defend his country, Syria. What was the result? The Syrians welcomed him, but where? They received him at the scaffold. Furthermore, how much did the 'Alawite and other regimes humiliate Sultan al-Atrash [a deceased Druze leader]? How much did they humiliate the Druze community? You know that they do not give a decent post to the Druze.

It is positive, oh Walid Junblatt, that Syria and the 'Alawite regime are now removing all obstacles and opposition they meet. This is why they are carrying out these ugly massacres in Syria against the sons of the Sunni community. They are turning this community from a majority into a minority. They have almost succeeded in this plan. The pretext they give that they are fighting the Muslim Brotherhood is nonsense. Some [words indistinct] members of the Muslim Brotherhood and others want to play it safe with Sunni Islamic states such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to ensure they will give them some money.

In the meantime, the 'Alawite regime continues to kill the Sunnis and commit atrocious massacres. As soon as they finish with them, the others' turn would come. It will turn either against the Christians or the Druze.

I believe that after the Sunnis, the regime will most likely turn against the Druze. What would we have done? The Druze would have sinned and the main sinner would be Walid Junblatt, who is panting after the fanatic, racist, hated and savage 'Alawite regime.

Therefore, we request our Druze brothers, whose civalry and patriotism we have known, to return to their genuine Lebanese identity, extend their hands to their honorable Lebanese brothers and act as the French resistance did in World War II--to begin striking the Syrian occupation army from within and deal them one blow after the other until we (?get rid) of the 'Alawite regime and replace it by those who uphold Lebanon's values. Let this take place before it is too late.

Walid Junblatt knows that in the war between the French and the Druze in the twenties the French organized a campaign to enter Al-Mukhtarah. Who stopped this campaign? It was Bishop [name indistinct] who resisted the French campaign and said: You will not enter Al-Mukhtarah before you enter [word indistinct]. The French force retreated and Bishop [name indistinct] defended the sons of Al-Mukhtarah. If Walid Junblatt does not know this, then let him ask the old people who will tell him.

We the Lebanese belong to each other. I do not say this to curry favor or out of emotion or weakness, but out of sympathy for the fate of the sons of the honorable Druze community because we want them to stay in Lebanon. We want them to stay and cooperate and coexist as we coexist with the sons of the honorable Shi'ite community. We want them to remain a foundation stone in (?Lebanon) in order that we may not be compelled to expel them from Lebanon in the future because, as you know, the future will be ours, regardless of how long it takes.

At that time we shall decide who will stay in Lebanon. Only those who have served and sacrificed for Lebanon will stay in Lebanon. Everyone who has helped or cooperated with the occupier will not have a status or a grave in Lebanon; we will not allow him, his parents or children to be buried in Lebanon.

For this sake, I have addressed my talk to my brothers, the Ma'ruf clan, so that they will be aware of the gravity of the situation and that they are proceeding along a path that is crooked and wrong; they are helping the occupier who has terrorized, infringed upon and maltreated the sons of the Druze community and will continue to do the same thing in the future no more and no less.

On the occasion of the imminent feasts, including the glorious Easter feast, and in view of the sufferings of the Lebanese in Zahlah and in eastern Beirut, we announce that we shall not celebrate the feasts this year in solidarity with our brothers in Zahlah and eastern Beirut. We hope that, with the feast of the resurrection, the resurrection of Lebanon will begin--a new Lebanon, the Lebanon of righteousness, freedom and independence.

Moreover, I ask my brothers in free Lebanon to make this feast one of sacrifice, to save the money they were intending to spend on the circus, receptions, confectionaries, coffee or other things and donate it to the military fund for the war effort and to help our brothers in occupied Lebanon wherever they may be. This is because we have been and still are a prop upon which the Lebanese can depend. God willing, we will not disappoint our brothers who are now in a difficult situation. Wherever they are found, we are all still one body. If this area is made strong, they will become strong.

We hope, as I have said, that this feast will be the beginning of Lebanon's resurrection, that the next feast will find Lebanon completely independent and that our grief will end with the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is then that we will have the right to feast, rejoice, celebrate, be happy and spend generously because we would be saying: Christ has risen and Lebanon has risen. May you live long and may free Lebanon live sovereign and independent.

RED CROSS EVACUATES FOREIGNERS, SICK FROM ZAHLAH

NC221107 Paris AFP in English 1004 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Beirut, 22 Apr (AFP)--Lebanon was today physically cut off from the rest of the world, exacerbating tension for a population already subjected to the daily battering of residential districts.

All attempts to reopen the port of Beirut, paralyzed for three weeks, had failed. The demarcation line, splitting the capital's Moslem and Christian sectors along nine kms (six miles), runs direct to the port.

A Red Cross convoy evacuated 38 people [from Zahlah] yesterday but only 2 had been injured in shelling. The others were six foreigners--2 Brazilians and 4 Americans--4 nuns and 26 people whose health was failing owing to dramatic sanitary conditions. Another convoy was expected in Zahlah today. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Government was meeting here today to discuss increasingly alarming developments in this latest round of fighting.

Some observers feared that the escalation in south Lebanon, and increasingly fierce Israeli statements on the Palestinians there, could mean that Israel contemplated launching a major onslaught on the region. Many Palestinian civilians were killed or injured in yesterday's upsurge of violence.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, charged today that this week's attacks were aimed at "scaring off the civilian population prior to a full-scale attack."

DAMASCUS RALLY MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF EVACUATION DAY

JN182147 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic, in a hookup with Syrian television at 1508 GMT on 18 April, carried a live relay of a rally held at Damascus University auditorium on the 35th anniversary of Evacuation Day. At 1520 GMT, the announcer reported the arrival of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the auditorium. The following speakers addressed the rally: 'Abd ar-Rahman Hamzah, deputy chairman of the Syrian revolution's Mujahidin Association; Michael Rishah, member of the Central Committee of the Progressive National Front; and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. All speakers extolled Evacuation Day and Syria's struggle against colonialism and imperialism. They also praised the 8 March 1963 revolution and condemned the Muslim Brotherhood gangs and reactionary regimes in the region.

The major speech was delivered by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party at 1721 GMT. He began by highlighting the importance of Evacuation Day and then reviewed Syria's history since 1946. Talking about the new U.S. administration, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, he said: "The clamor of the new U.S. administration will have no effect on our people's militant march. It only increases their steadfastness and confrontation of the schemes of U.S. imperialist and Zionism and their challenge of the enemies of the Arab nation and their agents in the region. It also increases their determination to continue the struggle for the attainment of our complete pan-Arab objectives in all fields, no matter whether U.S. Secretary of State Haig or any others visit the region, whether the United States and Israel move or do not move their agents from among the Phalangist gangs in Zahlah and Beirut as part of the implementation of the conspiratorial scheme, whether the French administration (?coughs) and moves its tail, forgetting that our Arab people's masses in Syria and Lebanon have cut off its tail and head [applause], making it evacuate this territory for good and making it believe that it is only dreaming of colonialist glories.

"As for the agent reactionary regimes in Cairo, Amman and Baghdad, our proud Arab people's masses in Egypt, Jordan and Iraq will take them to task, and Egypt's traitorous ruler Anwar as-Sadat will not escape our Arab masses in Egypt. Egypt will return as it was at the time of the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir [applause]: Arab in face, hand, tongue, affiliation, objective and destiny. It will take its place in the confrontation trench against our Arab nation's enemies.

"This will also be the case with the agent, corrupt, reactionary royal regime in fraternal Jordan. Our heroic Arab people's masses in steadfast Jordan know the history of agent King Husayn as well as the history of his father and grandfather. They are petty agents for the British, Americans and Israel. They had a disgraceful role in plotting against our Arab nation in general and our Palestinian Arab people in particular. Their history is a black history of treason and agentry, whether manifested in handing many spots of beloved Palestine over to the Zionist enemy in 1948 or in their ugly crimes within the context of liquidating the masses of our Palestinian Arab people.

"The massacres of Black September, in addition to their coordination with the Zionist enemy in both the past and the present, were not the first or last of these crimes. This evil branch of that evil tree will not have a better fate than the other evil branches in Hijaz and Iraq. It will be uprooted by our Arab people's masses in steadfast Jordan and thrown to hell and wretched destiny.

"The agent fascist rightist regime in Baghdad has utilized all potentials of fraternal Iraq in the service of the U.S. imperialist, Zionist and reactionary scheme in the region through the dirty war it is waging against the revolution of friendly Iranian people in behalf of U.S. imperialism with the aim of pressing Iran to yield again to the will of U.S. imperialism and to revolve in its orbit after it has been liberated from this with the downfall of the shah, friend of Israel and agent of the United States. It has also done so through its exposed plotting against the steadfastness and struggle of our people's masses in Syria and through supplying the traitorous hireling gangs with money and weapons and opening camps near Baghdad to train them in crimes and sabotage.

"The last mask has fallen from this regime's face. Its alliance with and coordination with the Camp David accords have been exposed through the arms deals under which traitor As-Sadat began to dispatch arms to fascist agent Saddam Husayn to continue the implementation of the U.S. scheme against Iran's revolution. This regime is totally isolated since it has detached itself completely from any link with our pan-Arab and just Arab issues of struggle, headed by the issue of Palestine. This regime, which has sold itself to the devil and employed all Iraq's potentials against the outlooks and aims of our patient and steadfast Arab people's masses in fraternal Iraq, will have no better destiny than that of similar isolationist agent regimes that governed Iraq before."

Mashariqah concluded his speech by praising the communist countries, headed by the "friendly Soviet Union," for their understanding of the justice of the pan-Arab issues. The rally ended after the conclusion of Mashariqah's speech at 1805 GMT.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTERVIEWED

GF201747 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Apr 81 p 12

[Marian Hawk interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Farug ash-Shar' in Damascus on 19 April]

[Excerpts][Question] What is the Syrian view on the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East?

[Answer] Unfortunately, General Haig made a very bad impression in the area from the very moment he disembarked from his plane. In our view, the ideas he brought with him met with failure. This is simply because they are unrealistic, unjust and irrational. How does Haig expect the Arabs to confront--and indeed fight--the Soviet Union while the Soviet Government and people are giving the Arabs the means to resist Israeli aggression and Zionist expansion? We believe this is impossible and is a waste of time for the U.S. Government. It is also harmful to its reputation among the Arabs.

[Question] Do you intend to put this view directly to the U.S. Government?

[Answer] We believe in dialogue with the United States, but we reject any move to impose a U.S. view on us. We made this very clear to the U.S. Government when we refused to receive U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper. As I already said, Haig did not come to exchange views but to impose his own views. We do not accept this at all. When the Americans concede that the principal conflict in the region is the Arab-Israeli conflict, that the Palestinian people exist and have a right to self-determination and that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, then we will listen to the U.S. Government with open ears. We do not suffer from any complexes. However, as long as the Americans do not respect our views, we definitely will not receive them or their representatives.

[Question] Has Syria accepted Soviet President Brezhnev's proposal to convene an international conference on the Middle East?

[Answer] On the international level at present, there is no initiative or constructive proposal by any permanent member of the UN Security Council other than Brezhnev's.

[Question] What is Syria's stand on Security Council Resolution 242? Does Syria reject it now as other Arab League members reject it, or do you accept it since it calls for Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders?

[Answer] The fact is that Israel has rejected Resolution 242, just as the United States--from the practical point of view--has also rejected it. We have never felt that the United States has been sincere in implementing the essential part of Resolution 242. It has not exerted any pressure on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. On the contrary, the Americans have done all they can to consolidate Israeli expansion. We hear President Reagan and his aides repeatedly declaring that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories is legitimate, while describing the PLO as a group of terrorists. We believe that Resolution 242 has been killed by the Americans themselves. It is ludicrous for Washington to ask us from time to time whether we still agree to Resolution 242. We believe this is hypocritical.

[Question] What is your view on the recent U.S. and French proposals on increasing the size of the international force in Lebanon?

[Answer] We believe that the French move was an imperialist move that is unacceptable to both the Lebanese people and the Arabs as a whole. This is why we condemned the French plan, particularly when the French refrained from condemning the daily Israeli aggression and raids against southern Lebanon. We cannot accept the use of the Lebanese question by some people in France as local material in the presidential elections as the Americans do with Israel. The French and U.S. moves will be strongly resisted by the Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians and all Arabs without exception. However, we do not believe this anti-Arab move by France is a firm and final stand, because we realize that they wanted to use the so-called Christian question in Lebanon as election propaganda.

[Question] I heard from some journalists living in Lebanon that the news of the fighting in Zahlah was greatly exaggerated.

[Answer] It is the Americans, Israelis and Phalangists who have prepared for and coordinated the fighting. Indeed, they prepared the press statements beforehand. The most important motives for the fighting were to cover Haig's visit and to try to distort the Syrians' reputation in order to pave the way for an unjust settlement that is in line with their one-sided and arbitrary settlement of the problem.

[Question] In your view, what should the UN role in Lebanon be?

[Answer] The main UN role should concentrate on Israeli interference in southern Lebanon and on ending the so-called statelet of Sa'd Haddad, who has demonstrated that he is nothing but a tool in the hands of Israel. We believe this is the main reason for instability in that area, and we expect the United Nations to carry out an important role in this regard.

U.S. DECISION ON AWACS REPORTED, CRITICIZED

'Concern' Expressed

TA220526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Israel has expressed concern over the White House's decision to sell the AWACS aircraft and the offensive equipment for the F-15 aircraft to the Saudis as one package. Israel's ambassador to Washington, Efrayim 'Evron, talked with Secretary of State Haig last night and expressed Israel's concern.

Political circles in Jerusalem have said that Israel regards the AWACS deal as a grave danger to its security and it continues to object to it.

Washington has announced that it has not yet decided when to submit the proposal to Congress. The United States emphasized that the AWACS aircraft will not be transferred to Saudi hands before 1985. At the same time, our correspondent has learned that the administration is inclined to submit the deal for congressional approval at the beginning of July, immediately following the election in Israel, thinking that Israel will not find the time to strongly object to the deal.

U.S. 'Document' Cited

TA220528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Reagan administration officials have admitted that Israel should take into account the possibility that the AWACS planes will be activated against it if a war breaks out. At the same time, in the opinion of the United States, Israel faces no real danger from these aircraft. This emerges from an internal document prepared by the administration which includes the explanation of why the AWACS aircraft should be sold to Saudi Arabia.

Washington correspondent Shalom Qital reported that the document states that the Saudis will not be able to make use of the intelligence gathered by these aircraft without it undergoing a complicated process that can only be done in the United States. Israel will also be easily able to intercept the AWACS. Similarly, there will be gaps in the areas covered by these aircraft and Israel will be able to take advantage of them. In the first 4 years of the aircraft operation, 400 Americans will be needed to operate the aircraft. This number will decrease but the operation of the aircraft will be given to contract American workers.

Government Announcement

TA221111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] It has just been reported that the Government of Israel expresses deep regret and unqualified opposition to the Washington administration's decision to supply sophisticated offensive weapons and AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia. An official announcement just issued in Jerusalem says that Saudi Arabia is vigorously opposed to the Camp David agreements, to peace and recognition of Israel. Saudi Arabia is supplying the terrorist organizations with massive financing and it was that country that declared a holy war against Israel.

Essing Remarks

TA221226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government's announcement says, among other things, that the supply of sophisticated offensive arms to Saudi Arabia would undermine peace in the Middle East and would constitute grave danger to Israel's security.

In response to a question by our correspondent, David Essing, the Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to answer whether or not Israel would try to employ its friends in the United States, but he added: We hope that all our friends in the United States will take our position into account. The Government of Israel will do all it can to prevent the Saudi deal from going through. The spokesman also rejected the U.S. proposals aimed at decreasing the significance of the danger caused by the AWACS aircraft.

This afternoon Prime Minister Menahem Begin conferred with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and it looks as though the Saudi deal was discussed at that meeting, too.

Tzipori Reaction

TA221122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] The spokesman for the U.S. State Department has clarified that deliberations with Congress, which still opposes the AWACS deal, will continue probably until July of this year. This decision came as a surprise to the Israeli Embassy in Washington and this is how Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori reacted to it this morning:

[Begin recording] This constitutes the introduction of a new dimension into the arena--a dimension which, in my mind, we can undoubtedly face, if necessary, but one which will place a heavy burden on the security forces. We are reaching the stage at which this burden is becoming too heavy to shoulder. [end recording]

U.S. SUPPLY OF TOW MISSILES TO SAUDIS OPPOSED

TA171621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] U.S. State Department officials have stated that the administration has not yet begun iscussing the supply of TOW antitank missiles to Saudi Arabia. Washington correspondent Shalom Qital reports that the Israeli Embassy staff has been informed of this. The officials stated that a Saudi request for these missiles has indeed been submitted to the State Department but it has not yet been examined. For its part, the Israeli Embassy said that Israel would in any case firmly object to the supply of TOW missiles to Saudi Arabia. Israel's objection will be as firm as in the case of the supply of the AWACS aircraft.

OFFICIALS WEIGH SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION

Tzipori Interview

TA211741 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Interview of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori by unidentified studio commentator by telephone--live]

[Excerpt] [Question] As for the events on our northern border: Is this really an escalation in the situation there?

[Answer] There is no doubt that there is some escalation. The fact that now, constantly, for several days, there have been exchanges of fire and the terrorists have again dared to fire in the direction of some of our settlements proves that there is escalation.

[Question] What led to this escalation?

[Answer] The escalation--let us put it this way; when we speak about the issue of the terrorists, we have to take into account that there is their clear objective, which has not changed, and for anyone who had any doubts about this there has just been that congress of Palestinians in Damascus which approved the fact that this is their intention.

There is no recognition of the State of Israel and as many Jews as possible are to be killed. Now, it may be assumed that some of this escalation that has taken place over the last few days--that those terrorist leaders who met in Damascus would certainly be very proud if they had some achievements in the field of strikes against the State of Israel and so they have made an increased effort, either by air or attempts by land, even by way of Jordan, to carry out strikes at the State of Israel or to carry out strikes in southern Lebanon.

[Question] And the latest Katyusha fire should also be seen as a part of this decision by the Palestine council?

[Answer] There is no doubt that this may also be attributed, this intensification, to the session of the Palestine Council and, of course, in the future and today as well this is an end result of their decisions that they will increase the efforts.

[Question] What moves should Israel take in view of this situation?

[Answer] Israel is taking constant steps and this does not necessarily follow from this situation. This situation may demand firmer actions, if calm does not return, and quickly, to the area. However, what is clear is that we gave immediate answers to this. We have dealt for the whole of this year, or even before that, with deterrent actions and we will continue to act for deterrent actions and the more their efforts increase, the sophistication and scope of our actions will increase. There is no one answer in war and there is certainly no one answer to attempts at striking at terror.

[Question] How long do you expect this situation in the north to last?

[Answer] First, there has already been a calming today and I hope that the calming will continue. We are doing all we can to calm the situation. It is not our intention to ensure that there should be calm; only when it is clear to us that there are any sort of plots or intentions of hitting us do we take preemptive action. However, we can calm the situation. The State of Israel will do that.

Military Sources

TA211828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Military sources say that the latest developments in southern Lebanon and the firing at the Galilee panhandle and the western Galilee should not be regarded as more than an expression of the terrorists' frustration over the failures they have had recently. However, the sources say that the IDF regards the firing at Israeli territory with gravity and will react to it as is appropriate. Here is our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal:

From a survey of the developments in southern Lebanon over the last few days it emerges that there is nothing unusual about the terrorists' increased activity and firing at Israeli territory and it is a question of a chain of circumstances and events that has led to a certain escalation, which is being encouraged by Fatah. The terrorists have not been successful in the attempts to infiltrate into Israel; the squads they send are captured, the IDF hits squads planning to go on strikes sometimes before they even leave their bases and terrorists' willingness to bring about an escalation indicates no small amount of desperation. They are therefore working in the only way left to them, that is, curved-trajectory firing at Israeli territory and laying mines in the enclave abutting on their territory, which is not defended by modern weapons of regular security forces.

Between the resolutions passed by the Palestinian National Council to increase military activity in the conquered land, as the council puts it, and the death of three of Major Haddad's personnel who hit a mine, there were many shellings in southern Lebanon and the [Israeli] air force was brought into action against the terrorist objectives which replied with Katyusha fire. The military sources think that there is no need to be too worked up about what is happening in southern Lebanon, but the IDF regards the firing at our territory with gravity, as I mentioned, and it will react to it as is appropriate.

Ministerial Consultations

TA211700 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Israel will act decisively to calm the situation in the northern area. Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that this is the position that has crystallized in ministerial consultations the prime minister held in Jerusalem today. Israel will continue to act tirelessly against the terrorists wherever its arm reaches.

Yadin Remarks

TA220537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Jerusalem has decided to do everything to ease tension along the Lebanese border. Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the deputy prime minister, Professor Yiga'el Yadin, has recently warned against the possibility that certain elements in the area--including Israeli elements--might drag Israel into taking large-scale actions against the Syrians, without a prior Israeli intention to do so. Professor Yadin said that in his opinion Israel would persuade Haddad to stop shelling civilizns in Tyre and siddon because the shells he is firing were supplied by the IDF.

Our correspondent adds that the United States has also recently made efforts to calm the situation in the northern region. In a meeting held between Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori and a senior U.S. official last weekend, Israel was asked to ease the tension in the area and prevent an escalation.

UNIFIL Efforts

TA220753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpt] UNIFIL forces are preparing for a special effort to maintain peace and quiet in the north. This was stated by Timor Guksell, UNIFIL's spokesman. He disclosed that a Fijian unit yesterday located a terrorist squad in the possession of Katyusha launchers as it was preparing to fire on Israel. The UNIFIL soldiers fired warning shots at them and the terrorists retreated. As a result of the terrorists' shooting, an alert was declared in the Galilee panhandle, and in some settlements the children spent the night in the shelters. In Qiryat Shemona there was what local inhabitants call a silent order to go down to the shelters. The use of loudspeakers was avoided, police patrols toured the streets and the policemen explained the situation to the residents.

Haddad Statement

TA211341 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Apr 81 p 3

[By Re'uven Ben-tzvi]

[Excerpts] "There will be no alternative but to conquer the Beaufort Castle in order to put an end to the war of attrition currently being waged," Major Haddad told MK Amnon Lynn yesterday in a conversation they held at the Rambah Hospital's internal department.

Major Haddad has been hospitalized at the Haifa hospital since the day before yesterday. MK Lynn met with Haddad at the latter's request, submitted through Christian representatives from southern Lebanon.

The commander of the Christian militia in southern Lebanon stated frankly that "we will not be able to withstand this war of attrition much longer. Our houses are being destroyed. Families are being battered by fatigue and the children are losing their self-confidence. What is more important, we do not see any chance for this war."

Sa'd Haddad, who was in a dark mood, added that although it is possible to bomb the Beaufort Castle once and twice and to repeat the action frequently--and also hit some artillery pieces during the operation--nothing will change because other pieces will replace those that are hit. "Only if we are allowed to sit on the Beaufort Castle," he said, "will we be able to end this war of attrition." He would be able to take over the Beaufort Castle with the forces that are at his disposal, he said. His only request would be that this message be passed on to the members of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee.

HA'ARETZ VIEWS CLASSIFIED STRATEGIC FORECAST

TA171515 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 81 p 13

[Ze'ev Schiff commentary: "Israel Is Too Sane"]

[Excerpts] Nine books bearing the title "A Strategic Description Of The State of Israel," classified secret, have recently been published by the defense minister's bureau and distributed to a limited number of people and offices. Only a few got all nine books. Generally the books describing Israel's strategic layout were handed out in accordance with the subjects dealt with by the person involved. Thus, someone who, for instance, deals with the strategic-technological aspect will probably not receive the volumes dealing with the demographic aspect, and so on. Six books are basic material: five are each devoted to the following specific issues: political-strategic; economic-strategic; demographic-strategic; strategic infrastructure; technological-strategic. The sixth book is called "Threats" and it focuses on the military, political, demographic and economic threats Israel will face in the next 20 years. The three remaining books constitute a kind of summing up of the basic books and are, in fact, a strategic assessment of Israel's predicament. The first presents the theoretical background; the second discusses fundamental national security issues and the third volume deals with policy.

This is a giant project that bred important staff work that will serve the political level in better planning and in making better decisions on issues pertaining to the national security requirements in a multiyear perspective.

The descriptive boods were attributed to "the defense minister's office," but the work was done in the national defense unit headed by Maj Gen Avraham Tamir. The overseer was Deputy Minister Mordekhay Tzipori, who urged prompt conclusion of the project. Major General Tamir described the compilation of the books as "the masterpiece of my life," a kind of swan song to his prolonged military service. In the past, too, both booklets and books on national security affairs have been published but, according to Major General Tamir, this is the first time that everything was compiled, updated and summed up in one piece. This is the written gospel of the Israeli strategic assessment, as compiled by the defense minister's bureau.

Before we touch upon the spirit of the work, it should be emphasized that this is an assessment and projection for 20 years, up to the year 2000. There are countries that only forecast an assessment of 15 years, but at any rate, this is a comprehensive assessment of a long period of time, out of which a period of 10 years is dealt with more extensively and a 5-year period is discussed at even greater length. [paragraph continues]

This long period of time was set in order to point out future trends. For example, the predicted demographic situation in another 20 years or the trends of the expansion of nuclear arms and technologies that will influence the development of arms systems. This is an area where a rather precise prediction can be made, but there are other subjects about which a projection for 20 years is quite difficult to make.

Many details of the strategic map of Israel are classified, and rightfully so. Therefore, we can only discuss some of the subjects, and even those we will have to tackle in a general, selective manner only. There is a common denominator of two major elements running through the entire political-strategic part:

1. The political process that began with As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and Israel's search for regional arrangements without which it is doubtful whether it would be prepared to undertake further risks. 2. The expected instability in the area and the dangers seen from the proliferation of nuclear arms and everything it entails that might totally disrupt the rules of the game.

Experts believe that even if the peace agreement encompasses additional elements the Israeli-Arab conflict will not be eliminated in the 1980's. In the future, too, it will be nurtured on the familiar desire to see Israel destroyed. There is even the danger of a political stalemate due to the strengthening of the Arab countries' blackmailing capability. The peace that will prevail with Egypt in the future will be an armed peace. In other words, even with peace the dangers of war will not be eliminated and continued Arab terrorism should be counted on together with the cooperation with it by world terrorism. Thus various possibilities in flareups in various scenarios are possible. This danger will grow in the future as a result of the immense filtering of arms systems to the Arab countries and the dynamics of the proliferation of nuclear arms.

As for the PLO, the experts do not see any encouraging sign or light at the end of the tunnel. The PLO is regarded as an element that can endanger the stability of the region.

Clearly, the main projection is instability that will prevail both in the global scene and in the region. This instability stems from several reasons, among them the strategic weakening of the United States and the improving standing of the Soviet Union and its ability to intervene in the region. Similarly considered is the fact that in the future the Soviet Union might take greater risks in its operations. In our region also there is uncertainty with regard to the peace with Egypt; whereas on the one hand it is clear that the inclination in Egypt is to limit its military expenditure and yet continue strengthening and modernizing its army, on the other hand there is some doubt as to Egypt's conduct in the future, particularly in the eventuality of a war along the eastern front.

This instability and the estimation that the conflict will continue make it incumbent upon Israel to do everything to advance the political process on the one hand; on the other hand, clearly the unequivocal recommendation is that Israel avoid undertaking additional risks or agree to make territorial changes in the status quo as long as there are no reliable and credible elements in the Middle East that would guarantee Israel's safety and ensure a comprehensive peace. Among the unreliable elements it is noted that the U.S. strategic deployment is forced to depend, in the Middle East, on key countries such as Saudi Arabia, where extremist changes might occur. The Jordanian fluctuations toward cooperating strategically with extremist Arab regimes is also mentioned, as well as the fact that Egypt fears basing peace on economic and strategic cooperation with Israel.

LIBYA

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES U.S.-SAUDI ARMS DEAL

LD211104 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] News media throughout the world have recently concentrated on reports that the United States is about to supply Saudi Arabia with strategic weapons, particularly AWACS aircraft. According to reports, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has said that if Congress rejects the government's proposals concerning the arms deal with the Saudi family, which includes deliveries of AWACS aircraft, this action will represent a serious setback in U.S.-Saudi relations.

If we compare this report with reports about the efforts to increase military cooperation between (?the United States) and France and the visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to a number of states in the region, and Saudi Arabia in particular, we notice that the news media coverage, the diplomatic efforts and the military moves all clearly indicate that there is an earnest desire among the imperialist and capitalist powers to (?dominate) the peoples of the area under the cover of political tricks. These tricks are centered at this stage on the fears expressed by Arab leaders concerning the so-called dangers that threaten the security and resources of the Gulf states.

Most of these so-called imminent dangers to the Gulf area and the Arabian Peninsula and indeed the entire Arab area emanate from the U.S. military presence there. The extent of this presence will cause the area to become an arena for military conflict as it is at the present time an arena for political maneuvering.

If we return to the statement of the U.S. secretary of state in a television interview in which he stressed the importance of supplying Saudi Arabia with AWACS aircraft we will see that this U.S. diplomatic view contains a military view point as well. The secretary of state in the Reagan administration, it is well known, is a military man who has taken up a political office. There is no doubt that he thinks that such an arms deal will be a military gain in the area for the United States.

The United States places Israel, Israel's security and Israel's military superiority at the head of its strategic priorities in the area. For this reason the United States would not agree to supply Saudi Arabia with strategic weapons unless it was assured of making several gains, which include the following: Saudi Arabia will not be a danger to Israel; it will continue to maintain its hostility toward the Eastern Bloc; and it will protect U.S. interests and influence in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. One must not forget that by supplying the Saudi ruling family with weapons the United States will force this kingdom to pump more and more crude oil to the United States. This will enable the United States to maintain its oil reserve while exhausting Arab oil reserves.

Finally, a point worth mentioning is that West Europe is more dependent than the United States on oil from the Gulf. If there is disagreement between the United States and Europe over the means of a Western military presence, there is nevertheless complete agreement over the need to maintain this presence. If there is disagreement between Europe and the United States concerning the Middle East, the two sides still agree fully on the need for Israel to remain powerful and secure. Therefore, the disagreement is over the means, and they are numerous. However, there is only one objective. So to whom will the U.S. AWACS aircraft be giving the early warning?

MAURITANIA

MATERIALS ON AL-QADHDHAFI STATEMENTS, VISIT

Agreement Said Reached

NC211245 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Apr (AFP)--Mauritania agrees with the principle of a political union with the republic proclaimed in the Western Sahara by anti-Moroccan guerrillas, and of a pact with Algeria, Libya and the republic, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said today at the end of a visit to Mauritania. But there was no statement by the Mauritanians, and no joint communique.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who met Mauritania's head of state, Lieutenant-Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala and Premier Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara during his two-day stay, said on departure:

"We discussed the counteroffensive to be led against the forces of reaction. We agreed, in principle, on a union between Mauritania and the Polisario Front (the Algeria-based guerrilla movement) when objective conditions permit.

"We agreed as well on the establishment of a pact among Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and the Saharan Republic," Col al-Qadhdhafi said. "All these questions will be the objects of a program of application--politically, military and economically--over a fixed period of time."

The idea of a union of Mauritania and the Polisario republic was raised by Col al-Qadhdhafi April 13 at a meeting in Tripoli attended by the Mauritanian premier and Polisario Front Secretary-General Mohammad 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Mauritania has not recognized the Saharan Republic, even though Nouakchott gave de facto recognition to the Polisario when it signed the Algiers accord of August, 1979, making its withdrawal from the Saharan war official.

Sources Say Proposals Refused

AB211911 Paris AFP in French 1649 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Apr (AFP)--Mauritanian leaders have given a polite refusal to the proposals made by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, during the working visit he had just made to Mauritania, informed sources in Nouakchott indicated. These proposals, made for the first time by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi during a meeting in Tripoli on 13 April, concern a union between Mauritania and the SDAR; Mauritania's entering into a revolutionary alliance composed of Algeria, Libya and the SDAR; and Nouakchott joining the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

According to a generally well-informed source, the Mauritanian leaders, in reply to the Libyan proposal concerning uniting with SDAR, stressed that they intend to maintain their policy of strict neutrality, which they have maintained since they signed the peace agreement with the Polisario Front in August 1979, despite their current quarrel with Morocco. A merger with the SDAR, they added, would mean abandoning this neutral policy, which is part of the Military Committee for National Salvation's program and which enjoys the support of the majority of Mauritanians, the same source added.

This Mauritanian attitude, however, does not exclude good relations with the Polisario, the same informed source in Nouakchott adds. Nor do the Mauritanian authorities reject the principle of close cooperation with the Saharan state and even a possible union with this state when it obtains its self-determination, the same source point out.

The self-determination is one of the main preconditions to be fulfilled, as the leader of the Libyan revolution emphasized in a statement before his departure from Nouakchott.

According to authoritative sources, the Mauritanian authorities also gave only vague responses to the Libyan head of state's proposals underlining the need for Mauritania to join a revolutionary alliance which will protect it from Moroccan hegemony. This proposal of joining a revolutionary pact which should follow a rapprochement with the Polisario did not receive any clear answer on the part of the Mauritanians, observers said.

Mauritania, while agreeing to strengthen its cooperation with Libya and Algeria, feels that joining such a pact would be premature, since it is likely to spoil its relations with moderate countries in the region such as Senegal, informed sources indicate. It is also because of fear of losing the financial support it receives from countries like Iraq and Saudi Arabia, which give it substantial aid but are opposed to the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, that Mauritania will certainly not take any active part in the steadfastness front, observers in Nouakchott estimate. It will nevertheless continue to support the PLO and oppose the Camp David accords, they add.

Departure Statement

LD220908 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The brother leader has ended his 4-day working visit to Algeria and Mauritania. The leader arrived in Tripoli today from Mauritania.

Before leaving Nouakchott Airport, the brother commander made a statement to the press. He said: During our visit we raised a number of highly important issues of interest to both our countries, the Arab nation, Africa and the world at large, which continues to be influenced by us. The question of Arab unity, he added, is now being discussed continuously, as is the complete pan-Arab mobilization for changing the Arab map to face up to imperialism on Arab soil. It is essential, he said, to wage a counteroffensive to liberate the Arab territories in step with the counteroffensive in Somalia, where preparations are now being made for the organization of a counteroffensive against U.S. forces and their agents.

The brother commander also said that it is essential to bolster the struggle of the Polisario against reaction and imperialism, to escalate the Palestinian resistance and to enable the Lebanese National Movement to perform its role within the framework of the counter-offensive against the enemy, imperialism and reaction.

In his statement to the press, the commander of the revolution pointed out that all these matters are under discussion at present. We have discussed them and raised them with our brothers in Mauritania, he said, and the result of all this shall be, God willing, Mauritania's annexation to the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. The time has come, he said, for Mauritania to become a member of the front, which stands firm in the face of the enemy and which confronts it.

I have also raised the question of unity between Mauritania and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, he said, and I hope that this will materialize when subjective conditions in this area end. We agreed in principle about these issues, he said, adding that unity between Libya and Mauritania, between Libya and Algeria and between Libya and Syria was also discussed. The brother commander stressed the need to establish a front extending from Mauritania to Libya in order to confront the attempts of reaction to penetrate the Arab Maghreb and in order to counter imperialist actions in the Arab Maghreb.

He pointed out that all these issues are covered by an economic-political-military plan which will be implemented in specific stages under all conditions.

We have acquainted ourselves with the views of our brothers in Mauri[illegible] and we fully appreciate the conditions surrounding Mauritania, including Morocco's threat to the independence of the Mauritanian people, its aggression against its freedom and territory, and its attempts to annex the Sahara to the Western centers of influence which are now being protected by Morocco. The brother commander added: We have acquainted our Mauritanian brothers with the results of the talks I had in Algeria with Brother Chadli Bendjedid.

I have also seen the economic conditions which Mauritania is experiencing, he said, and the Libyan Arab people must help the brother Mauritanian people, particularly in the economic field. Of importance to us also, he affirmed, is Mauritanian security. We have discussed the question of ensuring this security so that Mauritania can develop its own resources and solve its own economic problems.

I am extremely happy with the results of this visit, he said. He pointed out that he met with the Military Committee of National Salvation and exchanged views with its members. He said: I was extremely pleased with the understanding which characterized our talks with Brother Khouna Ould Haydala and with the prime minister, the foreign minister and other members of the Military Committee of National Salvation.

21 Apr Departure

AB211721 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] The visit of the Libyan head of state to Nouakchott ended today. He was seen off at the airport by Lt Col Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state; Mr Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara, prime minister and head of the government; CMSN members [words indistinct] and other top ranking civilian and military personalities.

After the two heads of state reviewed a guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the national army, the Libyan leader made a statement in Arabic [words indistinct] in which he expressed his satisfaction over [words indistinct]. We examined sundry state matters which concern us and the Arab nations [words indistinct] and that we are launching an attack for the liberation of (?black people) [words indistinct] in our struggle against colonialism. We also (?praised) the heroic combat of the Palestinian people and the struggle of the [words indistinct] national front.

As regards to discussions with our Mauritanian brothers, the results should be translated into [words indistinct] between Libya and Algeria on one hand, and Mauritania and Libya on the other hand. We also examined the difficulties in the establishment of [words indistinct] from Mauritania to Libya, [words indistinct] against reactionary and colonial tendencies in the Arab world. I assure you that we hope to adopt a very good economic and military program and also [words indistinct]. In any case, we paid great attention to Mauritania's view [words indistinct], particularly Morocco's threats to the Mauritanian people and [words indistinct] for independence.

[Words indistinct] on his departure from our country, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a message of thanks to Lt Col Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the CMSN and head of state. It reads: Following the short working visit I have just undertaken to your country, we wish to express our profound gratitude for the fraternal welcome accorded us. I assure you and the Mauritanian people of our unreserved support in your struggle against reactionary and imperialist forces. [words indistinct]

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT BY CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT

LD212352 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text of joint communique issued on 21 April on visit to Mauritania by Aristides Pereira, secretary general of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde and president of the Republic of Cape Verde]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, His Excellency Aristides Pereira, secretary general of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde and president of the republic, paid a working and friendly visit to Mauritania on 21 April 1981. The two presidents held talks, which were attended on the Cape Verde side by Foreign Minister Silvino da Luz, Interior Minister Julio de Carvalho, and other senior officials; and on the Mauritanian side by Prime Minister Sidi Ahmed Bneijara, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Mohamed El Mokhtar Ould Zamel, Interior Minister Baham Ould Mohamed Laghdaf, Mauritanian ambassador to Cape Verde [name indistinct] and other senior officials.

During their meeting, which was held in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and matters of common interests. They exchanged views on African and international developments and their views were completely identical. As regards bilateral realtions, they expressed satisfaction at the development of their links and confirmed that the setting up of a joint cooperation committee constitutes a step toward the consolidation of relations between the two sister countries in all fields. As regards the drought threatening our region, the two sides expressed anxiety over the continuation of this phenomenon and its serious effects on the economies of the countries of the region. In this context they expressed full support for the call by Gen Moussa Traore, current president of the Organization to Combat the Effects of Drought in the Sahel Countries, to get speedy aid to [words indistinct] to eliminate the effects of [word indistinct].

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the results of the third Islamic Conference summit held in At-Ta'if, especially the setting up of a committee for solidarity with and aid for the Sahel countries. The two presidents confirmed that the existence of regional, territorial and economic groupings represent an advance toward the achievements of African unity--the unity to which both sides confirmed their adherence. They confirmed their support for the Lagos action program, which broadly defines the strategy for the economic independence of Africa.

The two presidents discussed the situation in Africa and confirmed their deep anxiety over the increased hotbeds of tension. They called on the concerned sides to respect the principles of the OAU, especially noninterference in the internal affairs of countries, the settling of disputes by peaceful means, respect for the national sovereignty of every state and respect for the borders inherited from the colonialist era. As regards the Western Sahara problem, the two sides expressed extreme interest in the dangers it holds for peace, stability and security in this part of Africa. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the efforts made by the UN and the OAU to enable the Saharan people to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination, and they [word indistinct] the efforts made by the OAU committee entrusted with the task of finding a solution to the problem in an atmosphere of justice and continuity. The two sides expressed their deep dismay at the 16 March aggression against the sovereignty and integrity of Mauritanian territory and condemned this aggression.

As regards the situation in southern Africa, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the efforts made by the UN to implement the [word indistinct] resolutions passed by the OAU and the nonaligned countries, confirming their adherence to the immediate [words indistinct] Namibia obtaining its independence in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations. They also confirmed their complete solidarity with the fraternal people of Namibia in its struggle, led by their sole legitimate representative, SWAPO.

They condemned the policy of racial discrimination [words indistinct] and confirmed their total solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle for the recognition of their national rights and freedom. They renewed their unconditional solidarity with the African frontline states, especially Angola, which is a victim of planned aggression by South Africa.

The two sides studied the situation in the Middle East and condemned the escalation of tension in Lebanon. They also confirmed that the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, are indispensable conditions for the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the region. They confirmed their firm support for the struggle of the Palestinians led by their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The two sides expressed pleasure at the fraternal atmosphere in which their talks were conducted--talks whose results will contribute to the consolidation of the relations of friendship and cooperation between them. His Excellency President Aristides Pereira expressed his warm thanks to His Excellency Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, and to the Mauritanian people and government for the warm fraternal welcome accorded them. His excellency invited Lt Col Ould Haydala to visit Cape Verde. The invitation was accepted and its date will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

MOROCCO

CHATTI ARRIVES, VIEWS JERUSALEM COMMITTEE MEETING

LD212158 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] The meetings of the Jerusalem Committee will begin on Thursday in Fez. This session will be the first since the convening of Islamic summit in At-Ta'if. In this respect, Mr Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, arrived this afternoon in Morocco in order to take part in this session. Mr Habib Chatti spoke about the importance of this session and the delicate circumstances in which it will be held. In an interview with the radio correspondent he said:

[Begin recording] I am happy to visit Morocco. It has now become a habit for us to visit Morocco now and again. This is my happy lot. As I said, the Jerusalem Committee will hold an ordinary session on 23 April. Under these circumstances this session has an extremely important character for two reasons: The first reason is its convening after the At-Ta'if conference; the second reason is the tension and deterioration of the situation in the Arab east.

You all know that the Palestinian question is now going through a difficult period due to the fact that the war in the Gulf between Iran and Iraq has polarized the attention of the world and Arab public and also due to events in Lebanon. In Lebanon, the state of war is making the country polarize international attention. Israel is trying to internationalize the Lebanese question so that the Palestinian problem remains a secondary one.

In these deteriorating circumstances, we find that Europe, which had promised to take an initiative, has not moved forward one iota since the Venice declaration. As for the United States, and we had frozen everything while waiting for its new administration, it is adopting a policy that threatens to freeze the Palestinian question because the American view now is that we Arabs must focus our attention, before anything else, on Soviet expansion in the Middle East and turn a blind eye to what is taking place in Lebanon and in the occupied Arab territories.

This is also a threat to the Palestinian question. For this reason, this session is of extreme importance, and also because it will look into ways of carrying out the Islamic Conference summit in these difficult, grave and complicated circumstances.

We are convinced that we will find in his majesty the king, whose reelection as chairman of this committee we cherish--we will find in his advice and wise views and in the extreme interest he attaches to the Palestinian question--we will find in all these things the next steps we must take for a serious move that would give back to the Palestinian issue and the Jerusalem question their extreme importance and put them back in the forefront of world attention. [end recording]

SUDAN

AHAMET, GOUKOUNI FORCES IN CHAD REPORTEDLY CLASH

JN211503 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (SUNA)--In reports from Abeche, Chad, it is mentioned that fierce fighting erupted the day before yesterday between the forces of Acyl Ahamet, Chadian minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and Libya's man, and the forces of President Goukouni Oueddei. All kinds of weapons were used in the fighting, which erupted as a result of the bad treatment the forces of Goukouni Oueddei are receiving at the hands of the Libyan occupation forces. Resentment has taken the form of overt challenges during the past few days and resulted in the confrontation between Acyl Ahamet's forces and Goukouni Oueddei's men. Reports mention that the fighting was halted after the arrival of Libyan military reinforcements in Abeche from other areas to support Acyl Ahamet's forces.

Reports mention that casualties are not yet known but are expected to be heavy. Tension still prevails in the city and fighting is expected to erupt once again. An eyewitness stressed to SUNA last week that he expects the situation to erupt as a result of the insistence of Goukouni Oueddei and (Muhammad Aba 'Ali) on opening a new page in national reconciliation and holding a dialogue with the commander of the forces of the north, Hissein Habre, despite the refusal of Acyl Ahamet. The eyewitness stressed to SUNA that Acyl Ahamet had threatened to expel Goukouni Oueddei and (Muhammad Aba 'Ali) and their forces from Chad with the support of the Libyan forces.

UGANDAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES, COMMENTS ON VISIT

JN211123 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (SUNA)--Ugandan President Milton Obote arrived at Khartoum airport this morning for a 1-day visit to Sudan during which he will hold talks with President Ja'far Numayri on Sudanese-Ugandan relations in all fields and on regional, African and international issues.

Arrival Comments

JN211534 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (SUNA)--Ugandan President Milton Obote said upon his arrival in Khartoum today that he is very delighted at visiting Sudan despite the fact that this visit is to be relatively short. He added that he is very pleased at meeting President Numayri. The Ugandan president emphasized that he has always been looking forward to this visit in order to exchange viewpoints with President Numayri and Sudanese officials and to convey greetings from the Ugandan people to the friendly Sudanese people.

While in Khartoum, the Ugandan president said, he will exchange viewpoints with Sudanese officials on bilateral cooperation in the fields of regional and commercial affairs. Concluding his statement, the Ugandan president said that Sudan is an indivisible part of East Africa. The Ugandan president said that he will benefit a great deal from Sudan's experience in the basic fundamentals of cooperation in order to serve the interests of the two countries and to help develop the entire region.

ETHIOPIA

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON MIJATOVIC VISIT

LD171842 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 17 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpts] The Yugoslav head of state, Comrade Cvijetin Mijatovic, left Addis Ababa for home last night following a brief friendly working visit to Ethiopia at the invitation of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam. While here, Comrade Mijatovic and Comrade Chairman Mengistu held private talks on bilateral relations and the international situation.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Ethiopian oreign Ministry described the outcome of yesterday's talks between the two heads of state and the discussions held among the three working groups as constructive and useful. Among the issues discussed were the situation in Africa with particular emphasis on Namibia, the Nonaligned Movement, disarmament and detente.

On Namibia, the two leaders condemned Pretoria's continued aggression against the front-line states and called on the international community to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions on the racist regime to compel it to implement the UN decision on Namibian independence.

They also urged scrupulous respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, the inviolability of state frontiers and noninterference in the internal affairs of others.

MENGISTU BEGINS WORKING VISIT TO ASSAB 19 APR

LD192038 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1900 GMT 19 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, arrived in Assab this evening on a brief working visit. Our revolutionary leader was met on arrival by Comrade Belai Bitew, administrator of the Assab administrative region; Comrade Eshetu Alemu, COPWE Central Committee alternate member and COPWE representative in the Assab administrative region; and representatives of the armed forces, government and mass organizations.

The comrade chairman's entourage includes Comrades Fiseha Desta, PMAC deputy secretary general, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and COPWE Executive Committee member; Brig Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, PMAC Standing Committee member, defense minister and COPWE Executive Committee member; Hadis Tedla, PMAC Standing Committee member, deputy chairman of the national revolutionary economic development campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and COPWE Executive Committee member; ministers; COPWE Central Committee members; force commanders; commissioners; and national chairmen of mass organizations.

UGANDA

UGANGA AIRLINES FLIGHTS REPORTED CANCELED

LD211752 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 21 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Kampala--President Milton Obote of Uganda is in Sudan on an official visit which is expected to focus on refugees and border security problems. Radio Uganda said today that Ndugu Obote and a party of government ministers had left for Sudan where they were expected to discuss the problem of thousands of Ugandan refugees in southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, Uganda Airlines has canceled all flights until further notice. Airline employees have said the cancellation order came from the Ugandan vice president, Ndugu Paulo Muwanga.

CHAD

FIGHTING REPORTED BETWEEN GUNT FACTIONS IN ABECHE

AB220958 Paris AFP in French 0809 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 22 Apr (AFP)--Shooting broke out at Abeche (eastern Chad) over the Easter weekend between several factions of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], according to a communique published Monday following an extraordinary cabinet meeting.

The clashes are reported to have been between elements of the Revolutionary Democratic Council of Foreign Minister Ahmat Acyl and the Libyans on the one hand and President Goukouni Oueddei's Popular Armed Forces and Interior Minister Mahamat Abba Said's First Army on the other hand.

In the communique issued Monday in Ndjamena after an extraordinary meeting, the GUNT expresses concern over the bloody events that have just taken place at Abeche between the various factions placed under its authority. The GUNT appeals to the population for calm in this deplorable situation. The communique does not say how many victims there were during the clashes which reportedly lasted a few hours.

Meanwhile, the GUNT has ordered an inquiry into the clashes in order to determine just what happened.

The Abeche events have caused a certain tension in Ndjamena, where the population feared clashes. Early Friday morning, elements of the military police were deployed in the main streets of the capital, patrolling and disarming civilians. According to an Interior Ministry communique, this move by the army is not related to the developments in the east of the country, but it is a surprise operation.

BRIEFS

DISEASE OUTBREAK--The health situation in Chad is causing concern. The Red Cross was forced to install mobile units in Ndjamena schools. An outbreak of chicken pox, measles and meningitis has hit many people, particularly children, in the southern and eastern part of the country. [Text] [Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Apr 81 LD]

ZAIRE

AZAP NOTES HUNGER EXISTS DESPITE SCIENTIFIC GAINS

AB211330 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1040 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Kinshasa 21 Apr (AZAP)--If there is a fundamental social problem which has until now kept scientists, economists, researchers, statesmen and world religious leaders at bay, it is that of hunger caused by food crises which are becoming more and more disturbing with regard to a galloping population.

While science was still in its infancy during the past centuries, it was generally believed that when it would be fully developed in all fields, man's problems on earth, especially that of hunger, would be easily solved.

But what do we see today?

Science has become extremely developed and has made outstanding progress, to such an extent that if all world leaders were endowed with good reasoning in the way of general well-being, they could use the results of science to the profit of humanity. [Words indistinct] international it is noticed that energies of leaders and the scientific concept of the experts who surround them as advisers--especially in countries with advanced civilizations--are constantly oriented towards the field of generalship, therefore that of war and arms.

The amount of money spent in this sector is fantastic. To them, gunpowder seems to be more redeeming, more profitable than any other social sector. However, if they would at least think of doing the opposite, that is transfer the arms expenditure [words indistinct] that of hunger.

While millions of souls die of sickness and hunger, [words indistinct] seek ways of destroying humanity, conceive new types of arms, pay the brains who carry out the studies, finance those who implement such manufacturing plans; that is the line followed presently by the external policies of industrialized countries, whether capitalist or communist.

Seduced by the theories of Marx and Engels, the founders of the first socialist state were persuaded that only a regime based on proletarian dictatorship could ensure happiness to all. However, experience has bitterly shown that abolishing private property and means of production to the profit of the community does not necessarily provide happiness any more than capitalism.

The proof is that the crisis we deplore does not leave out the Soviet Union, the first socialist state, of [word indistinct] and all other socialist countries. It seems that some of them are suffering the effects in a dramatic way, not even mentioning the Soviet Union's grain imports from the United States.

In all this mess, where we see that the crisis rages indifferently in the two diametrically opposed sides, one thing is certain; we cannot deny the fact that material progress, if it is not concomitant to spiritual and moral progress, can never make men happy.

These scientists, economists, researchers, statesmen and heads of world religions should replan projects they conceive for the well-being of humanity in such a way that [words indistinct] to actions which are socially useful for humanity will be superior to that aimed at self destruction, that is armament.

CAPE VERDE

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

AB211230 Paris AFP in English 1157 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Praia, April 21 (AFP)--The Cape Verde Islands and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement in the field of posts and telecommunications, officials said here today.

Meanwhile, an official of the French Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Dr. Parade, has arrived in Praia for talks on possible French aid.

GABON

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENS, PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS

AB220700 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today opened its first session of 1981. The solemn opening ceremony, under the chairmanship of the president of the republic, was declared open by the prime minister, Mr Leon Mbeiame, on behalf of the head of state. This is the second year that this assembly, which was elected in February 1980, has met. The session, which opened this morning, will last about 50 days, during which an emphasis will be put on three draft bills of interest to the head of the government. The three draft bills will deal with town planning, a civil servants' labor code and the protection of the people against epidemic diseases. The prime minister emphasized these three points in his opening speech:

[Begin recording] As the representative and delegate of the executive power, I am here today, Mr President, to assure you that the National Assembly will perform its duties in the best possible manner. Very soon, your office will receive a certain number of draft bills adopted by the government at its cabinet meetings which members of the assembly will be called upon to debate. Some of them seem to be particularly important and should be given priority. First of all, there is a draft bill sponsored by the Ministry of Housing, Urban Affairs and Land. Second, there is a draft bill on a new labor code for civil servants. The third draft bill is introduced by the Ministry of Public Health and Population. It deals with the protection of public health in the fields of epidemic diseases.

As the president of the National Assembly rightly recalled, the government has adopted, at its cabinet meeting, a draft bill dealing with administrative and financial measures to promote small-scale industries in Gabon.

The government's attention has been drawn to a new sociological problem. This phenomenon, as you know, is deliquency and crime. A Ministry of Public Security has just been created. Its duty is to ensure the citizens' tranquility. It must also seek crime prevention measures. [end recording]

Before the prime minister's speech, the president of the National Assembly spoke. Mr Augustin Boumah took this opportunity to renew his institution's confidence in and loyalty to the head of state and his policy.

GHANA

ARAB COUNTRIES CRITICIZED FOR LOW AID AMOUNT

AB161545 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Station Commentary by V. Attipoe]

[Text] There is no doubt that Ghanaians are pleased with the vice president's statement on his return from visits to Europe and the Middle East that the OPEC fund has promised to organize finance for the Bui hydroelectric project. The vice president is reported to have added that the fund will mobilize [word indistinct] donor countries for a meeting to be held later this year on how best to help the country in establishing other projects such as the Kpong hydroelectric project. The Kuwait fund has also pledged $14.4 million and the Arab Bank for Africa is considering joining in financing the project.

This is good news indeed, not because of the magnitude of their assistance, but more significantly because of their response. Ghana, and for that matter developing countries, are much aware of the great financial and [word indistinct] help from the developed nations, whether from East or West. The Third World is also aware of the much talked about aid from other developing states blessed with abundant oil, particularly from the Arab world.

But there is no [word indistinct] that these Arab countries have not been helping their fellow developing states as should have been the case. One need not be a political or economic analyst to recognize that assistance from these immensely rich Arab countries is not commensurate with the political and moral support given them by the Third World, especially Africa, in their conflict with Israel.

Ghana was among the first countries in Africa to break diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1973 war with Egypt. Notably, Ghana and the other African states have not deemed it fit to reestablish diplomatic ties with Israel despite the fact that Egypt has done so. Instead, their support for these oil-rich hardliners in the Arab world who dominate OPEC has been as [word indistinct] as ever. This situation becomes clearer if one considers the fact that the Israelis were helping in many development projects which they had to abandon. Under these circumstances, one would have expected these oil-rich Arab states to offer generous assistance to Africa, but to the chagrin of all, such assistance has not been forthcoming. This has even led many people to argue that Ghana and the other African states should reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel.

In the light of these, it is encouraging to learn that the OPEC fund has decided to help Ghana finance its hydroelectric projects. One can only hope that the fund will back its decisions with concrete action.

IVORY COAST

EDITORIAL URGES WEST TO HELP OTHERS DEVELOP

AB181315 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 18 Apr 81 p 1

[Editorial by Aguste Miremount: "Cooperation and Solidarity"]

[Text] Cooperation, fraternity, solidarity: a three-worded phrase whose excessive use has rendered it a cliche in international circles. And the speaker who does not use them surprises his listeners. But do these words mean the same thing to everyone? Surely, the question is worth asking.

Africa, in particular, and the Third World in general, expect these notions to sincerely reflect the true desire of their partners to act with equity toward the establishment of a more harmonious world, which will forever banish the specter of clashes between the miserable and the satiated, between the pitiless haves and the have nots, crushed in the slavery of hunger by the unbearable selfishness of these satiated ones.

For the latter, cooperation is a state of force where the powerful impose their dictates: "I am ready to assist you but only on condition that this allows you to intensify your commerce to my profit; that your country serves as a market for my products and my investors, who will be the priviledged ones; that you give me your unflinching support in all my actions...."

By the way, is this not what the administration of a great power has announced publicly and frankly? It stated: "We will give assistance only to governments whose votes and policies will be favorable to us...."

It is the same with solidarity whose public manisfestation is only at its height in time of disaster. It is only in these cases that the sensitive organs of the governments of industrialized countries are aroused, and they run, they rush, they fly in aid to populations buried in earthquakes, hunger-striken by drought or dying from hunger and thirst in boats rowing towards freedom. But as soon as the media, worn out by the continuity of this tragedy, stops reporting them, they return to their usual silence and to their comfort, willingly ignoring these men, women, children and thousands of others struggling to survive.

There still exist some everyday things which demand some sort of solidarity from all if we sincerely want to prevent the world from heading toward a dramatic confrontation: This concerns the situation of the "misery refugees" running away from countries where hunger and insecurity prevail; again, it concerns the imbalance of trade exchanges and it is especially here where the blind selfishness of rich countries is cruelly illustrated. But why do they refuse to pay fair and just prices for products from poor countries so that they can also develop and thereby preserve the development of the rich countries through the things they will buy from there?

"What will the lonely worker think? they retort. But have they taken the trouble to explain to this worker that it is in his own interest, and in even that of his survival to safeguard the freedom and progress of countries whose coffee, cocoa or peanuts he consumes without knowing the conditions under which they grow, and then try, through the balance of exchange and fair prices, to eliminate injustice and misery, which is bad advice.

"Organize yourselves, impose your initiative, for solidarity knows no sentiments in a liberal economy," they retort again. That is true; but we are not asking for pity nor are we begging for grants. We are only asking that justice be done.

And poor earthenware pots against iron pots, what can we impose in the present structure, where our primary products are not strategic? Is it possible in the West--so-called land of freedom and justice--to go beyond the satisfaction of immediate profits, the selfishness of one's comfort, to think that we must build with others more in need, a world of equality, harmony and peace?

Is it difficult for Western governments to change the mentality of their people so that they can know that freedom does not mean the ruin and destruction of others? There is the risk that they will know it only when it is too late.

LIBERIA

AIR LINK WITH USSR OPENED WITH AEROFLOT FLIGHT

AB212057 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The official Soviet airline, Aeroflot, today made its first flight to [word indistinct] shed, the Roberts International Airport, just outside Monrovia. Final agreement for the airline, which now flies to about 86 countries around the earth, was signed by Liberia and Soviet officialsin Moscow on 24 October 1980.

In an official ceremony on board the jet airliner today, the Soviet ambassador to Liberia, Anatoliy Ulanov, said the launching of the plane in Monrovia marks an important historical event in Soviet-Liberian relations. He said since the Soviet Union recognized Liberia's independence more than 100 years ago, the peoples of both countries have striven for a long time to establish much closer contacts. Mr Ulanov said it was based upon this principle that Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev granted political support to Liberia immediately after the military coup by inviting head of state Master Sergeant Doe to visit Moscow. Ambassador Ulanov hoped that the two countries--Liberia and the Soviet Union--will further strengthen their economic, trade as well as cultural cooperation, adding [words indistinct] demands that the consideration of a long-term (?character) should be decisive in Soviet-Liberian relations.

For his party, Deputy Commerce Minister (?John P. Rancy), who headed the Liberian delegation to the inauguration of the air flight in Liberia, said Liberia will continue to welcome peace-loving nations without losing our ideological framework. He hoped that the launching of the airline would accelerate trade and commerce between the two countries.

Other Liberian officials present were Information Minister Gabriel Allison and Deputy Foreign Minister (?Sumo Jones).

NIGERIA

EKWUEME ASKS WEST TO PRESSURE PRETORIA ON NAMIBIA

AB212204 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Nigeria has called on the five Western nations negotiating the independence of Namibia to exert pressure on apartheid South Africa to agree to UN plan on the issue. The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, told the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State-designate for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, in Lagos today that the apartheid regime attended the recent Geneva conference on Namibia to frustrate the deliberations. Dr Crocker, who leaves tonight for London to attend a meeting of the contact group, has visited nine African nations.

NATIONAL CONCORD COMMENTS ON CROCKER TRIP

AB220945 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The 10-day tour of some Africa nations by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs [as heard], Dr Chester Crocker, attracts comments from the NATIONAL CONC . D. According to the paper, if the purpose of the trip is to study African feelings on the Namibian issue, then Dr Crocker must have learned by now that the continent remains uncompromising. The CONCORD doubts the new U.S. initiative and Dr Crocker's suggestion that apartheid should be dismantled through persuasion, because of the intransigeant posture of the 5-nation contact group. The paper calls on Dr Crocker to carry home the message that Nigeria and other African countries have never been in a good mood to tolerate the U.S. arm twisting diplomacy.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL ADDRESSES MINISTERS' MEETING 20 APR

LD211236 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1815 GMT 20 Apr 81 EA

[Speech by President Samora Machel to Council of Ministers meeting in Maputo 20 April--recorded]

[Excerpts] We have ended the proceedings of the fifth extraordinary and augumented session of the Council of Ministers. We have invited to take part in this session cadres from the party and state leadership and from various activity sectors. We have heard reports from various teams which toured provinces in this second political and organizational campaign. We have discussed in depth various aspects presented in the reports. Through the reports we have learned the following:

1. How far the central state plan of 1981 has been implemented;
2. Our advances and difficulties;
3. How every one of us is assuming the spirit of the offensive.

Finally, we have had the central state plan for 1981 approved by the party Central Committee and the Peoples' Assembly. I want to say that the central state plan is now law. We did not come here to discuss it. We came here to evaluate how far it has been implemented. We came here to study the best way to carry it out and guarantee its full implementation. We came here to discuss the best way to divide and coordinate our forces [words indistinct].

What we have approved here is very clear. There are, however, some points which we would like to underline:

The first is the need to make a profound study of the methods of work of the political and organizational offensive. This study will enable us better to understand the character and nature of the offensive.

We are now even more convinced that the offensive is a permanent and glob l process. [sentence indistinct] The offensive must involve all party and government leaders, it must cover all sectors.

During the first campaign our fundamental objective was to dislodge the internal enemy who had been infiltrated into the state apparatus of the people's democratic state. Our task was to hit with a hammer the fingers and the hands of capitalism.

During the first campaign we were able effectively to detect and neutralize a number of enemy agents who had been infiltrated among us.

That success does not mean that our fight is now over. The fight is a permanent aspect of our revolutionary process. It is part of the struggle of the masses. Our independence means that we have to heighten this class struggle while we are liquidating the vestiges of capitalism in our country.

In our first campaign we launched a struggle against incompetence, laxity, negligence, carelessness, apathy, irresponsibility and lack of hygiene. The fight against these manifestations and against these vices is also a permanent struggle.

In this second campaign, we are going to concentrate our efforts on the [word indistinct] battle. This is to monitor the implementation of the central state plan. Accordingly, we have defined this second campaign as one of assessing, controlling, finding out those behind the breakdowns and meting out punishment on them. [passage indistinct] The struggle continues.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA SAYS DOOR TO TALKS 'VIRTUALLY CLOSED'

LD221132 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The Security Council of the United Nations has rejected a formal request by the United States, Britian and France that representatives of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance should be allowed to take part in its debate on South-West Africa.

The South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, told Radio RSA that he now regards the decision by the Security Council as an indication that the door has been virtually closed to further negotiations on a South-West African settlement.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA CRITICIZES U.S. ATTITUDES ON SOUTH AFRICA

LD221050 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Apr 81 CA

[Text] The president of Zambia, Dr Kaunda, has accused the United States, saying it has contributed to the Pretoria regime's more hawkish and belligerent position of recent months. President Kaunda said the views of the Reagan administration on the security of the southern African region coincide with those of racist South Africa. Dr Kaunda was speaking at a national council meeting of the ruling party, UNIP [United National Independence Party], in Lusaka and he described the U.S. statement that South Africa should be supported because it has been an ally in two world wars as incredible. President Kaunda asked: Doesn't the Reagan administration know that many Afrikaners were collaborators of Nazi Germany while Africans fought devotedly for the cause of the West?

ZIMBABWE

PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

LD211042 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1120 GMT 20 Apr 81 CA

[Independence Day anniversary speech by President Rev Canaan Banana in Salisbury 18 April--recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable Comrade Prime Minister, honorable ministers, your excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, comrades, friends, ladies and gentlemen, happy birthday to you all! [cheers from crowd] Exactly 12 months have passed since we acceded to independence and sovereignty. To all Zimbabweans inside and outside our borders I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry festival on the occasion of our first anniversary of national independence. Let me also take this opportunity to make a review of the achievements and progress my government has made during its first year in office.

My government came to power at a time when the nation was torn apart by war and artificial racial and social differentiation, when economic poverty, disease and ignorance were rampant, when Zimbabwe was virtually unknown in the international community. Thousands of Zimbabweans had become refugees in the neighboring countries of Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana. An almost equal number had become displaced and dispossessed within the borders of this country. Jails and detention camps were flooded with untried political prisoners. These were the stark realities of (?the struggle--the true situation when my government took its term of office.

The nation is indebted to Ngarajongwe, the prime minister of Zimbabwe [cheers from crowd], for the skill and ingenuity--for the skill and ingenuity with which he handled this delicate and highly volatile situation soon after winning the election. The majority party in Parliament, ZANU-PF, adopted a policy of reconciliation and invited minority parties to one government of national unity in order to bury the hostilities of the past. Equal praise must go to the leadership of PF-ZAPU [as heard] and other parties for the gesture of statesmanship in accepting the call to unity at a crucial stage in the history of the development of our people. Above all, credit must go to all Zimbabweans of different races and ethnic groups for their determination and willingness to live together in peace and unity. All this helped to seal the political volcano which the profits of doom hoped would erupt once political power was transferred to the African majority. With this necessary supportive political infrastructure it became possible for my government to embark on the task of fulfilling the election promises to the people.

First and foremost was the question of land redistribution and resettlement of refugees. Notwithstanding problems of funding, giant strides have been made in this direction. I must, however, thank those of our people who, however, have not acquired land during the first year of our independence for being patient and thus demonstrating great understanding and appreciation of the government's position and problems.

Secondly, within 1 year of independence my government has undertaken positive measures to rectify unjust and discriminatory laws in order to create conditions of social justice. In the field of commerce and industry the government has sought to rationalize and stabilize labor through the enactment of a minimum wage policy and the establishment of workers' committees. Basic salaries of up to 80 [Zimbabwean] dollars are now in force in the mining and industrial sector and 30 dollars for agricultural and domestic workers. The [word indistinct] commission of inquiry into incomes, prices and conditions of service will soon publish its findings which no doubt will facilitate the creation of a uniform and more equitable remuneration system. As far as health is concerned, the government has introduced free health services for all workers earning below 150 dollars a month. The discrimination in hospitals in terms of wages has also been abolished. In education the government has boldly moved forward in dismantling discriminatory structures of [words indistinct].

In the provision of housing facilities the government has tried to alleviate the burden of (?civil war by fixing rents payable) and by enabling those who have paid rent for a long period of time to own the home they occupy. Efforts in this direction will be redoubled so that every family can enjoy the benefit of a home. It is the government's intention to provide, in the long run, credit facilities for the prospective householder.

In order to make our independence effective my government has embarked on a programme of Africanization. To this end there are several Africans who have been appointed to the top ranks of the civil service. Similarly, in the field of local government the people's power is realized through the election of African mayors and councillors in most of our cities and towns.

In the field of foreign affairs our new nation is indelibly marked on the world diplomatic map. Within the first year of our independence we have set up missions in 9 countries and have welcomed 47 embassies and 6 international organizations accredited to our country. Zimbabwe has also acceded to membership in a number of international organizations geared towards the establishment of a just social order.

In particular, we condemn the Pretoria regime for its apartheid system and for consistently denying the people of Namibia their right to self-determination and sovereignty. Zimbabwe, through the OAU and the United Nations, will continue to support the liberation forces in southern Africa until social justice finally prevails. It is also important for me to point out that our policy of nonalignment has been successful over the past year. We have managed to attract friends from the West, East and the Third World without compromising our independence. This success was demonstrated by the overwhleming support we got from the international community during the ZIMCORD [Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development] conference. This was clearly demonstration of confidence in our new nation.

Finally, let me now turn to the important question of security. My government came to power when the country had just emerged from a bitter war and when the conditions of peace were very fragile and delicate. There were three antagonistic forces: the former Rhodesian forces, ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] and ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army]. Notwithstanding isolated cases of discipline here and there the process of the integration of our forces has proceeded fairly smoothly. To date we have more than 15 battalions already integrated. It is hoped that by September the integration process will have been completed. I would like also to note with extreme delight the success of the Miniary of Defense in the recent commissioning of former freedom-fighters into the echelons of the national army. It is also important to note that our police force has [word indistinct] just as successfully from a paramilitary force to a people's force and from heavy reliance on the maximum use of force to the minimum use of force. I am proud to say with satisfaction that Zimbabwe today is one of the most peaceful countries in the world.

Let us all continue to work together in unity in order to build a strong, prosperous and equal Zimbabwe. Long live the continued unity of all our people! Forward with the year of consolidating the people's power! [cheers from crowd]

CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DPRK 14 APR

LD151250 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 14 Apr 81

[Text] Zimbabwe and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today signed a cultural agreement at a ceremony held in Salisbury.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister of education and culture, Comrade Mutumbuka, said the event was a great occasion because it was extending the friendship which has existed between the two countries before Zimbabwe attained its independence. He said the occasion was also important because Zimbabweans were joining their colleagues in Korea to celebrate the official birch of the president of the DPRK, Comrade Kim il-Song, which is today, 14 April. Comrade Mutumbuka said he hopes the two countries will foster cultural ties to the benefit of the two nations.

BRIEFS

ANGOLAN AIRPORT--Luanda, 20 Apr (ANGOP)--According to a source at Luanda international airport, torrential rains have rendered the Mbanza-Congo airport inoperative since April. The same source said that repair work is underway but the date of completion is not yet known. The situation is giving the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the management of the Angolan airline cause for concern because the unavailability of the Mbanza-Congo landing strip is very detrimental to the economic development of Zaire Province and indeed of the country as a whole. It should be recalled that air transport provides the main link between Zaire Province and the capital. [Text] [Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 0950 GMT 20 Apr 81 LD]